

State Scholars, continued from page 1

school programs and have plans to continue their education and training following graduation in spring 2025.

Allen, the daughter of Rachael McKinney, has been a member of the Lady Coaler Softball team during high school. Her future plans are to enter the apprenticeship program through Local 150.

Aultz, the son of Mary Ann Eikey and Troy Aultz, serves as president of the National Honor Society, is a member of Science Club, Scholastic Bowl, Math Team, Ping Pong Club and participates in tennis. Following high school, Anthony will enter culinary school with plans to own his own restaurant one day.

Barkley, the daughter of Steph and Clark Barkley, serves as the reporter for Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA], activities coordinator/director for Spanish Honor Society and is a member of National Honor Society, Coalers with Character, Speech Team, Math Team and plays soccer for the Coalers. Her future plans are to attend a four-year university majoring in pre-law/political science.

Burns is the son of Amanda and Steven Buns. August participates in Scholastic Bowl, National Honor Society and Science Club where he serves as president and editor of the newsletter. He will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

Castle, the daughter of Becky and Tyler Castle, is a member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She also plays volleyball and soccer for the Coalers. Her future plans are to attend a four year university.

Cheever, the son of Tammy and Bob Cheever, is a member of the school's Scholastic Bowl and Math Teams. He participates in National Honor Society, Link Leaders, Science Club and Ping Pong

Club. His plans are to major in graphic design at a four year university.

Croxtan, the son of Jennifer and Eric Croxtan, participates in National Honor Society and Coalers with Character. She also is a member of the Coaler Softball team. Her future plans are to attend the University of Iowa majoring in radiation sciences.

Feisley is the daughter of Melinda Felker and Will Feisley. She has been involved in National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Spanish Honor Society, Coalers with Character, Math Team, Caler Creations, and Link Leaders. Additionally, she is a member of the Coaler Volleyball Team and participates in Track and Field. Lilly's future plans are to attend a four year university to major in nursing to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Gibson, the daughter of Heather and Greg Gibson, participates in Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA], Link Leaders, Math Team, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Prom Committee and played golf for the Coalers. Her plans after high school are to attend a four year university majoring in nursing.

Johnke, the son of Sarah and Joshua Johnke, serves as vice president of National Honor Society, president of Student Council and is an officer in Future Business Leaders of America. He is also a member of Coalers with Character, Spanish Honor Society and is a captain of the Coaler Football team. His future plans are to attend a four year university to study sports management.

Kinder, the daughter of Carmen and Justin Kinder, is a member of the Coal City Theatre Department, Drama Club, Speech Team, drum major with the Coaler Marching Band, queen of Madrigals and

holds membership in the National Honor Society and Music Honor Society. Melody will attend Olivet Nazarene University majoring in psychology and music.

Lynch, the daughter of Patrick and Luda Lynch, is a member of Student Ambassadors, National Honor Society, Link Leaders, Speech, Senator Bennet's Youth Advisory Council and Math Team. She also participates in swimming and soccer. Her future plans are to enter a pre-med track in college.

Meyer, the daughter of Sarah Brooks and Eric and Meyer, is a drum major for the Marching Coaler Band and participates in Jazz Band. She is also a member of Art Club, Science Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and plays soccer for the Coalers. Ava will major in pre-veterinary medicine in route to becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Natyshok, the son of Andrea and Nick Natyshok, is a member of the school's National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Music Honor Society. He participates in Speech, Theatre, Footnotes, Madrigals, and is part of the Track and Field Team. Mason plans to continue his education at a four year university and major in marketing.

Nettles, the son of Michelle and Ben Nettles, is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Math Team. Hunter also plays tennis and golf for the Coalers. Hunter's plans following graduation are to attend a four year university to pursue a degree in medicine.

Perino, the son of Phoebe and Darryl Perino, is a member of the Coaler Golf and Tennis teams and participates in Future Business Leaders of America, Spanish Honor Society, and Scholastic Bowl. His post high school plans are to study engineering.

Polarek is the son of Michael Polarek, Christine Polarek and Heather Polarek. Shawn is involved in the school's music program participating in jazz, symphonic and marching band, and performing with the musical pit orchestra. His future plans are to attend a four year university to study computer engineering.

Quarles, the son of Sarah Rutherford and Gregory Quarles, participates in the Ping Pong Club. Following high school he plans to attend a four year university and enter the tech field in the areas of coding and game development.

Ramsden is the daughter of Amanda Ramsden. She is a member of Student Ambassadors, Link Leaders and Science Club. Molly's plans after graduation are to attend pharmacy school at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Wantroba, the son of Julie DiGiacomo and Richard Boys, He is a member of the Speech and Math teams, participates in band, and plays tennis for the Coalers. He plans to continue his education at a four year university.

Young, the son of Brooke and Kevin Young, serves as an officer in the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA], and is vice president of Student Council. He is also a member of Spanish Honor Society and Coalers with Character. Dylan also is a member of the Coaler Football, Basketball and Baseball teams. His future plans are to attend a four year university.

The Illinois State Scholar designation is a non-monetary award. Each of the honored students receive a congratulatory letter and certificate of achievement from ISAC. Additionally, the school recognizes the honored student by displaying their photo in the administration hallway.

Heist, continued from page 1

occupants of the vehicles, inconsistencies in the stories raised suspicion.

Deputies learned that the U-Haul driver had picked up a load of boxes in New Jersey and was transporting them to California. The driver of the van displayed signs of nervousness and deception and probable cause was established to search the van.

When the door to the van was opened, cardboard boxes were observed. The boxes contained new Apple iPads and RIG wireless headphones for Xbox gaming systems still in their original packaging.

The driver was unable to produce a bill of lading for the products, and the U-Haul van was taken to the sheriff's office for investigation. Both van occupants were taken to the sheriff's office for questioning.

A Kia mini-van, that was also stopped by deputies, was occupied by two acquaintances of the occupants of the U-Haul. A search of the Kia resulted in finding 64 grams of cannabis and a small amount of cocaine. Occupants were taken to Grundy County Jail.

Deputies conducted an inventory search of the boxes found in the U-Haul, in which 878 iPads and 2,202 sets of wireless headphones were accounted for. The approximate value of the iPads was valued between \$260,000 and \$350,000, and the headphones at \$220,000.

Deputies learned the iPads had been purchased from Apple by Amazon. A representative of Amazon was contacted and provided a purchase order number for the iPads. The items were stolen from a cargo theft in New Jersey, and the headphones were stolen from a cargo theft in Kentucky.

After questioning, admissions were obtained to the cargo thefts.

The four suspects: Efrain Leal-Lopez of Hilmore, CA, Rene S. Turcios of Victorville, CA, Jose S. Herrera of Los Angeles, and Zoser A. Torres-Angulo of Monterey Park, CA were placed under arrest and held in the Grundy County Jail on charges of possession of stolen property with a value over \$500,000, a Class 1 non-probationable felony, pending a pre-trial release hearing.

Buddy, continued from page 1

story as a cast of sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Coal City Middle School will present, "Elf, Jr." this weekend in the Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Tyson Harding, an eighth grader, takes on the iconic role of Buddy the Elf. His human family consists of dad, Walter Hobbs, played by Maddox Meents and Olivia Ferrari appears as Emily Hobbs, and in the role of Michael Hobbs is Derek Maxwell.

Connor Rodriguez appears in dual roles starting out as Santa and moves into the part of Mr. Greenway, the publisher of Greenway Press and Walter's boss.

An also relatively new resident of New York City is Jovie, the department store employee that captures Buddy's heart, a part

played by Penny D'Arcy.

"Elf, Jr." also features Jonah Micetich, Jackson Hollis, Cora Bill, Marina Figge, Emma D'Orazio, Brantley Brooks, Payton Boyd, Katherine Veronda, Bradley Street, Ben Stalter, Tess Jeschke, Patrick Doerfler, Aidan Morgan, Haley Johnson, Pearl Friddle, Cinna McKee and Teigan Trofimchuck.. Featured elves are Jett Johnson, Gabby Byers, Aubree Dearth, Carson Picchi and Callie Lehnus.

Also taking the stage are Chase Clubb, Tristen Brncich, Kenzi Baldauf, Jaycee Chase, Lauren Jacovec, Alyson Shelton, Kinley Neary, Malorie Jones, Malania Lowe, Owen Burla, Emma Sinkular, Giavella Carver, Audrina Nugent, Brayden Brncich, Kylee Looper, Zoiey Jones, Jelenie Opyds, Rylie Peters, Caroline Grunwald, Cele Gordon, Victoria Buns, Fiona Lindley, Ryder Soernsen, Eathyn Rivera, Ryan Hausman, Collin Ness, Julian Carver, Jackson Pruim, Lily Connor-Mikos, Abi Donnelly, Lily Harding, Lilly Harney, Hannah Sinkular, Bailey Gabehart, Adelia Gonzalez and Ryleigh Kargle.

"Elf, Jr." opens at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15 and continues Saturday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are available in advance at cur8.com/projects/CCTheatreDept [1].

Any remaining seats will be available at the door beginning one hour prior to each performance. On site sales are cash only.

"Elf, Jr." with a book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin, music by Matthew Sklar and lyrics by Chad Beguelin is based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum. The musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International [MTI].



Coal City Theatre Department photo

THE SHOCK OF discovering that you are not elf and your human dad is a non-believer on the naughty list. See Tyson Harding and the cast of "Elf, Jr." bring the story of Buddy the Elf to life on stage this weekend.

Lead lines, continued from page 1

– a toxic metal – has the potential to contaminate drinking water and presents a health hazard.

Replacing the old service lines with non-lead materials helps ensure the safety of drinking water. Replacement usually involves removing lead pipes that connect the water main to a home's interior plumbing.

Fritz said much of the work to date has been east of Broadway Street and north of State Route 113. Because the money was awarded as principal forgiveness funding, the village doesn't have to repay it.

Coal City is the only community in Grundy County to receive the funding, according to the Illinois EPA.

Replacement of the lead service lines does not affect the neighboring Village of Diamond. Diamond's water system only shares a "loop line" with Coal City for emergency use, said Public Works Supervisor Jim Dunning.

Coal City also has a new well and tank in use at Fire Station #1 on DeWitt Place as part of plans to improve its water treatment facility.

Funds for that project came from a low-interest loan from the IEPA, Fritz said. The improvement will enable the village to "service the total water supply volume on a daily basis" and meet the needs of the 2,300 users of Coal City's water system.

Coal Bin to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois a sale or other disposition of property by COAL BIN STORAGE INC will be held online at www.BID13.com, auction ending on November 27, 2024 1:00 PM, to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, Jessica Pate, 405 Prairie Lane, Wilmington, IL, Unit C33/Location#1, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$565.00, plus attorney fees & costs.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13 and 20, 2024.

Claypool Drainage and Levee District files financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE
DRAINAGE NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 5, 2024 file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Financial Report for said District for the period ended October 31, 2024. Objections to the report must be filed with the clerk of the court within 10 days after the first publication of this notice.
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 5, 2024 present and file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Certificate of Levy of Annual Maintenance Assessment for said District for the period ended October 31, 2024 payable 2025. The total amount of the annual maintenance assessment contained in the assessment roll is \$258,154.56. Objections to the Levy must be filed on or before December 10, 2024. A hearing to confirm the levy has been set for December 17, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. before the Circuit Court of Grundy County in the West Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois.
Corri Trotter, Circuit Clerk
Robert Koerner, Ronald Maland and Joseph Brown
Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District
Published in the Coal City Courant and Braidwood Journal on Nov. 13, 2024.

Garfield Township to host Republican Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Republican party in the Township of Garfield, Grundy County, IL will be held at the Garfield Township Main Office, 301 N. Liberty St., Gardner, IL 60424 commencing at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Township Supervisor, Township Highway Commissioner, Township Clerk and Township Trustees (4).
Dated: Oct. 31, 2024.
Jamie Wilkey, Clerk
Presiding Officer
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13 2024.

Dingman Drainage District files financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE
DRAINAGE NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Dingman Drainage District did, on November 7, 2024 file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Financial Report for said District for the period ended November 6, 2024. Objections to the report must be filed with the clerk of the court within 10 days after the first publication of this notice.
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Dingman Drainage District did, on November 7, 2024 present and file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Certificate of Levy of Annual Maintenance Assessment for said District for the period ended October 31, 2024 payable 2025. The total amount of the annual maintenance assessment contained in the assessment roll is \$22,111.00. Objections to the Levy must be filed on or before December 10, 2024. A hearing to confirm the levy has been set for December 17, 2024 at 8:45 A.M. before the Circuit Court of Grundy County in the upstairs courtroom of the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois.
Corri Trotter, Circuit Clerk
Robert Trotter, Roger Long and Aaron McWilliams Commissioners of the Dingman Drainage District
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13, 2024.

Grundy Co. Ag Fair district annual meeting


PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Annual Meeting:
Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Grundy County Agricultural District Fair, Inc is called for and will be held at 8890 IL-47 Grundy County District Fair, Inc main office in Morris, Illinois on the 12th day of December 2024 at the hour of 6:00PM for the election of officers and directors and to transact other business as may be brought before the membership.
By Order of the Grundy County Agricultural District Fair, Inc
Julie Russell, President
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13, 2024.

Garfield Township to host Democratic Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Democratic party in the Township of Garfield, Grundy County, IL will be held at the Garfield Township Main Office, 301 N. Liberty St., Gardner, IL 60424 commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Township Supervisor, Township Highway Commissioner, Township Clerk and Township Trustees (4).
Dated: Oct. 31, 2024.
Jamie Wilkey, Clerk
Presiding Officer
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13 2024.

Goodwill Industries seeks approval for donation center

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 2nd day of December, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:
To consider: Conditional use to add Charitable Organization Donation Center to C-4.
At the following address: 155 E. Division (Front) St., Coal City, IL 60416
Legal description of property: sub of PTN 1/2 NW 1/4 Sec 2-32-8, W 1/2 LT5 and All LT6 Blk 4 Sec 2-32-8
Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Flow Properties, LLC and Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, Inc.. Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection therefor.
Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 31st day of October, 2024.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 13, 2024.



Award Winner
ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
Serving newspapers since 1865

The Coal City Courant
USPS No. 120-060
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
271 S. Broadway St.
Coal City, IL 60416
Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
Free Press Newspapers;
111 S. Water St.; Wilmington, IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$46 Grundy & Will counties; \$53 other Illinois counties and \$60 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7966
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2024 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G-W Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G-W Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher



COAL CITY HIGH School's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society welcomed 35 new members at a ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 6. Inducted into the society were (in alphabetical order) Lilliana Aguirre, Izzy Anderson, Maddie Castle, Wyatt Chase, Eliana Chernesky, Laura Christopher, Juliet Covington, Bridget Feeney, Aubrey Grunwald, Mason Hamilton, Austin Harding, Aidan Kenney, AJ Kenney, Kyla Kohler, Vanna Libermann, Deborah Lynch, Nicole Maack, Julian Micetich, Layla Miller, Peyton Moore, Lucas Munsterman, Avery Murphy, Jordan Olson, Anastasia Papach, Hunter Pedigo, Lance Perino, Trevor Perino, Laynah Pierard, Chloe Pluger, Cade Poyner, Colin Schimandle, Kyla Stark, Grey Vanek, Meadow Viano and Winter Wills. Welcoming the new students were Spanish Honor Society members Corinna Barkley, Aylie Castle, Jacob Cimino, Riley Clements, Korbryn Crist, Lilly Feisley, Peyton Gibson, Kamryn Hansen, Grace Heatherwick, Alyssa Hray, William Johnke, Own Kent, Kenzie Lovell, Ely Maldonado, Ava Meyer, Alaina Morales, Mason Natyshok, Hunter Nettles, Allyssa Parks, Madalyn Petersen, Katherine Promis, Mayson Wantroba and Dylan Young.

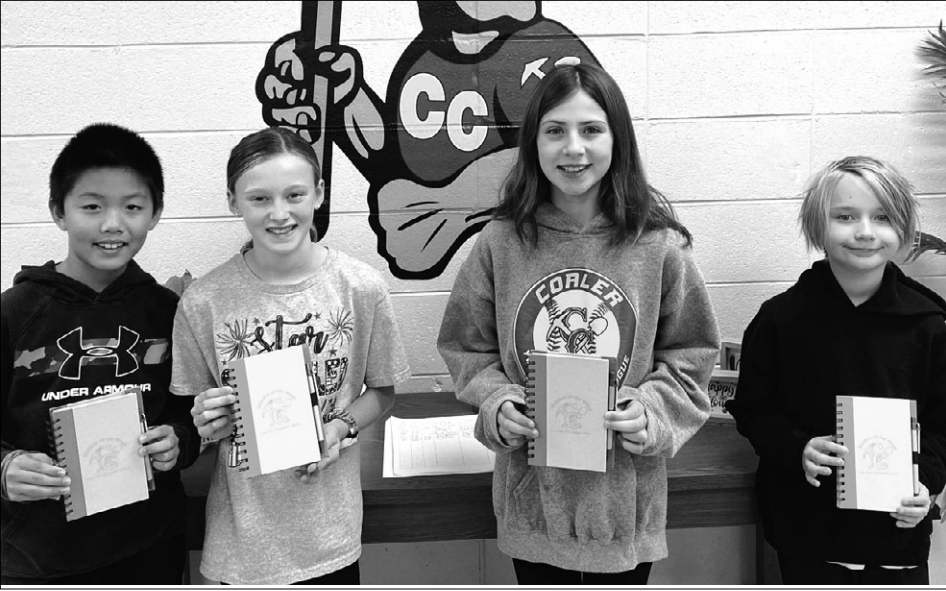
Students of the week



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center named the students of the week for Nov. 13 (sitting, from left) Aspen Faletti, Alfred Perry, Darcie Gabehart, Everly Lawrence, Lennox Daniels and Maura Ekstrom. Back row: Elliot Foster, Miller Hajdu, Angus Egeland, Ellie Jeschke, Everly Fisher and Isaac Mcumber.



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for the week of Nov. 11 in row one [from left] are: Brynlee Krueger, Nolan Wren, Collins Glefke, Justine Jones and Nova Vespie. Beckham D'Orazio is in row two with Catalina Echevarria, Aiden Richardson, Katrina Cullen, Makenna Aspel and Karsyn Hammen.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for the week of Nov. 11 are [from left]: Jason Xu, Morgan Mutz, Addie McCann, and Charles Raddatz.



COAL CITY MIDDLE School has named its Students of the Week for the Week of Nov. 11. The honored students are [from left]: Stella Eaton, nominated by Mrs. Roseland; Emma Palacios, nominated by Mr. Brimm and Katie Funes, nominated by Ms. Fincher. Not pictured is Jonathan Wegner, nominated by Mrs. Sandburg.

Blue Christmas program at New Hope Church Dec. 1

The holidays are upon us and while it is a time of preparation and celebration, some have a difficult time getting into the spirit. Many things happen in our lives over the year such as losing a loved one, or a change in employment, the effects of the pandemic and separation from family, or other things that affect people and their lives, and they just can't seem to feel the joy.

With this service, people are given the opportunity to come together with others who are going through those same feelings, to realize that they are not alone in their feelings, and to just take time to focus in remembrance of the important persons and milestones in our lives.

The Church of Hope in Gardner and New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 Garfield St., across from the library in Coal City will be gathering for a special service on Dec. 1, 2024 at 2 p.m. to just share and be. Everyone is invited and we hope you can join us. Refreshments to follow.

Christmas Eve Service

The Church of Hope in Gardner will be holding their Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. and New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City will be holding their Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, 2024.

These services will be recorded and posted on Facebook for those who wish to stay home yet celebrate the birth of Jesus. This has been a year of change in so many ways, including our traditions. We hope you will join us as we once again hear the story of the birth of Jesus and sing the carols that are so familiar over the years...yet maybe that will change, too. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

GSWB Tigers open their season

The GSWB 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team hosted Herscher Limestone Thursday night.

The 7th grade earned their first win of the season 27-20. After a slow offense start, the Tigers were able to use their defense to spark their offense at the end of the 2nd quarter to put them within 3 at the half. A 12-1 3rd quarter would give the Tigers the lead and they would never look back. Kash Olsen led the Tigers with 10 points. Kash Kerner added 7 points, led all rebounders with 14 and added 4 assists. Talon Mack had 6 points and 7 rebounds. Chase Chandler and Jaxon Pluger each added 2 points.

The 8th grade Tigers played a solid 1st quarter staying within a point of Herscher, but during the second quarter the Tigers struggled to find some offense and found themselves down 10 at the half. Despite a solid effort to battle back within 7 the Tigers were not able to overcome the early deficit and fell 33-23.

Brody Grimes was dominant on both ends of the court ending with a double-double including 14 points, 11 rebounds and 7 blocks. Ryan Male brought in 10 boards and added a basket. Mason Jordan added 6 points and 5 rebounds. Ty Tjelle added 5 rebounds 2 assists and 2 steals. David Allen added 1 point.

The 7th and 8th Tigers opened their season on Monday in Morris against Morris Grade School.

The 7th Grade played in an intense defensive battle where they held a lead until late in the fourth quarter when Morris was able to put a run together to take a lead. A couple of made free throws at the end of the quarter would help Morris.

The Tigers would end up with a 13-16 loss. Jaxon Pluger had 6 points, Kash Kerner 5, Tyler Futia 2. Kerner, Talon Mack, and Chase Chandler were solid rebounders for the Tigers.

The 8th Grade found themselves behind early in the first quarter 11-2. The Tigers worked hard and made some solid runs but were never able to overcome that early lead. The final score was 49-25. Mason Jordan led all scorers with 15 points, Ryan Male added 6, David Allen and Brody Grimes each added a bucket.

Young Tigers

The 5/6th grade Tigers lost at home to the Morris Braves in the first game 48-13. The Tigers held strong on defense with Braydon Vaughn from SWGS scoring 4 and Cal Christensen from GGS scoring 4 points. Followed by Nick Wells BES with 2 and Peyton Welsh from GGS with 2.

The Tigers won the 2nd game 4-2. Game was tied with Brayton Vaughn scoring final 2 points at the buzzer.

Coal City Public Library News

Check online event calendar at ccpld.org for a description of the events and to register.

Check out our digital services available 24/7 on our website at www.ccpld.org.

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. First half hour is cardio and the second half is weights, resistance band and strength training.

Thursday, Nov. 14- Terrific Tots - 10am Family Story and Play Time - 11am Terrific Tots - 6pm Cooking with Heather Shouse - Hide Your Turkey

Leftovers - 6pm

Lori Bonarek Realty - Seminar - 6pm - It's Our Turn to Serve You! Veterans Home Buying Seminar with Megan Wendtland.

Friday, Nov. 15- Storytime at The Cove - 9am

Bingo - 1pm

Fun Fridays - 3pm

Gamer's Guild - 3:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 16- Family Photo Day - 9am-4pm - in the Annex Building

Wonder Kids - 10am

Monday, Nov. 18- Terrific Tots - 10am

Preschool Storytime -

11am

Eager Readers - Homeschool Edition - 1pm

Mahjong - 1pm

Eager Readers - 4pm

Lapsit - 6pm

Preschool Storytime - 6pm

Tuesday, Nov. 19- Happy Scrappers - 9am-4pm

Holiday Card Making Class with Tammy Elledge - 5:30pm or 7pm

Wednesday, Nov. 20- Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) - 9am-12pm

Lapsit - 10am

Preschool Storytime - 10am

Teen Event - 4pm

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to
www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic. Submissions by email to: courant@fnpusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.

Castrate rapists

COAL CITY—So now that we have so many states with abortion bans and limitations, I think it would only be fair that if a man is found guilty of rape or incest and have exhausted all legal appeals, that he should be castrated before being let out of confinement. Just a thought, have a nice day.

Wrong priorities

DIAMOND—Every taxpayer in the Unit 1 school district should be angry at the fiscal irresponsibility of the Board of Education and administration. Recently the board and administration spent millions upgrading the concession stands and installing new turf at the High School while the Middle School was literally falling apart. They acknowledge that they knew the building was in poor shape, but decided to spend taxpayer dollars frivolously on what they themselves described as wish lists. I wish they would prioritize spending on education and maintaining the facilities.

No checks, balances

SHADOW LAKES—What have you done America? In the very near future we will be living under the rule of a monarchy. The Republican party will control all branches of government. They will have the majority in the House of Representatives and they will have the majority in the U.S. Senate, in the Supreme Court, with king Donald Trump sitting at the throne. No checks and balances...just absolute power. Strap on and get ready for the ride.

Dignity and kindness

BRAIDWOOD—With the election in the rear view mirror, I hope to read positive comments from people. Whoever our new president is, I will honor and respect the office of president, even if it isn't who I voted for. We can make a difference but not by ugly comments about who wins. Come on folks, let's do this with dignity and kindness.

Thank you mayor

DIAMOND—A big thank you to the mayor and her board for bringing Jewel to this area. Waiting for the next surprise.

Democracy dies

WILMINGTON—Democracy dies in falsehood and it appears that democracy is now dead in America because information was stifled during this election and the people succumbed to the lack of truth. Throughout history the far right always finds scapegoats to blame for problems

and this election was no different. It's the immigrants say the far right. It's the gays, they argue. It's the transgenders, they shout. It's the folks living nearby, they complain. Just look at them, they jeer. And so we are now in an authoritarian state which is just a fancy phrase for dictatorship like in Russia, for example, where we should never go because we could be thrown into the gulag like other Americans. But of course, the savage Putin is happy and sends his greetings to the American people because our vote gives Putin permission to slit the throats of the Ukrainian people. And the toady Trump is happy to receive Putin's greeting because when dictators speak, people sit up and take orders and Trump wants the same from us. Furthermore, the Supreme Court made it legitimate this past summer. When Americans were not paying attention, the Supreme Court ruled on July 1, 2024 that the President is above the law and can order 'official acts' for which he is immune such as the assassination of other Americans. In other words, when it comes to official acts, the President is above the law. But who decides which acts are official and which are not? The founding fathers established the judicial system for that purpose but it's obvious we can't trust the corrupted Supreme Court any longer. As a result the President is a king who is unaccountable to the rule of law in our dear America that we have loved but can no longer respect. Irene

Questions

WILMINGTON—Both Kamala and Biden showed class by calling Trump to congratulate him on winning the election. Too bad Trump didn't have the courtesy to do the same in 2020. I have not heard of any lawsuits or protests over this election so it must have been legal, fair and square, just like the 2020 election when the loser cried foul. How much will Trump give Putin to end the Ukraine war? If Putin pushes, maybe Russia can get Alaska back. Will the president-elect keep his word on saving Medicare and Social Security? Project 2025 wants to cut both and this a major concern for this non-millionaire. The morality of this country has sunk to levels I have never seen in my lifetime. The American people voted for a felon, rapist, narcissist, adulterer, insurrectionist, slanderer, and liar to become President of the United States and a majority of Americans don't seem to care about these things. They appear to support a big bully who belittles anyone who dares to question or oppose him. And this is our leader for the next four years?



Too late

BRAIDWOOD—Well you can tell that there's an election coming soon with all the last minute work going on in the city by this administrator. Unfortunately, it's taken them five years to bring in business other than the many gaming locations of which there are about 14-15 now, whether stand alone or inside current businesses. Mastadon Gas/Market like the sign says a mechanical shop on North Division and now late in the season a rush to widen North English Street. Isn't this the street commissioner's responsibility? I am not one of the four or five people that he keeps mentioning are just whining and if you don't like it here then just move. In order for our town to move in the right direction and with the correct type of growth this administration has to go. In just under five months your vote will count and let's make Braidwood Great Again.

The things you believe

WILMINGTON—If you believe women should be forced to let babies die in the womb and continue to carry them you are garbage. If you believe Haitians are eating pets in Ohio you are garbage. If you can ignore 34 felonies and other crimes such as sexual assault you are garbage. If you are a Christian and choose to ignore habitual adultery and other acts of immorality you are garbage. And if you still weep for Ashli Babbitt and the other traitors of Jan. 6 you are garbage.

Keep it local

WILMINGTON—To the author of "Berkots deserves it" if you wanted your tax dollars to remain in Wilmington why would you go to the new Jewel to pick up a few things you needed and the liquor you needed instead of going to the newly remodeled Berkots and purchasing your items and then going to one of our well stocked liquor stores in Wilmington to purchase your items insuring that your tax dollars stay in Wilmington?

Wanting total control

COAL CITY—After the hurricanes were over in Florida, FEMA was contacted

to aid the people in Florida. But on the news it was stated that FEMA personnel were told to avoid to giving any aid to any individual who had a Trump political sign on their property and FEMA personnel are all Democrats which shows just how much the Democrats wanted to deprive food to some Americans. This type of treatment can only be found in a communist type of country. Apparently the Democrats have been following a dictatorship agenda for total control over everyone. Thank God they lost the election or we would become slaves to communism.

Pritzker must go

MORRIS—The next person to be voted out of office should be Governor Pritzker. Now he's talking about if you come for Illinoisans you have to go through me. The federal government and President Trump illegal immigrants in the country, not Illinois residents. All Pritzker wants is illegal immigrants here and all he is doing is giving them our tax money and it's costing the Illinois taxpayers. The state is already broke, the Chicago school system is going broke but they won't do anything about property taxes for Illinois residents who have lived here all of their lives or give a bigger discount to senior citizens who can't afford property taxes here. Governor Pritzker, you gotta go.

Flunkies on TV

WILMINGTON—People on the right are always offended when the left calls Trump a liar. Yet the Republicans deploy a team of flunkies to go on TV and explain Trump didn't mean what he said.

Editing comments

WILMINGTON—It seems like when it comes to Soundoff, the editor decides how the comments are going to be published. I know of people who have put comments in the paper and they have been edited. They are thanking people for their services to the community and their comments are edited. It would be nice if the editor would print soundoffs in their entirety and not be edited.

Promote your business beyond

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY!

Run an ad in the Small Business Saturday pages (with free color) and we'll discount your ad each additional week to promote your business through the busy shopping season.

Saturday, Nov. 30

This Space Only \$50 A \$25 SAVINGS

2nd week \$45
3rd week \$40
4th week \$35

Deadline Nov. 20

Includes the Braidwood Journal, Coal City Courant and Free Press Advocate each week!

Call for details - 815-476-7966

Support Small BUSINESSES

Commentary

Small Business Saturday: why shopping local matters

BY ANDI MCCLINTIC

As November begins, so does the busiest shopping season of the year. We're familiar with Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but let's not overlook Small Business Saturday—a day dedicated to supporting the businesses that keep our communities vibrant and unique.

On this day, shop small and make an impact close to home by supporting the shops, services and makers in our own backyards.

Rural and local businesses face unique pressures. They compete not only with the convenience of online shopping but also with the often lower prices offered by big-box stores.

While saving a few dollars might be tempting, supporting local businesses offers value that goes

beyond the bottom line. Local shops offer jobs, character, and a sense of shared community; and each of us has a role to play in keeping our local economies thriving.

When we spend locally, we keep more money circulating within our community. Dollars spent at a local business are reinvested in other local businesses, services, and wages, creating a positive cycle of economic growth. This keeps our towns and neighborhoods financially resilient and can contribute to community improvements and local projects.

When we think of local businesses, we might envision the shops lining Main Street, but small businesses come in all forms. Many local entrepreneurs run online or home-based businesses, selling unique,

handcrafted, or custom items through their websites or social media platforms.

Following and engaging with these businesses on social media is a great way to stay connected and discover the variety of products they offer.

This Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30, let's show up for the businesses that make our towns feel like home. Support local businesses not just for the unique products and services they offer, but for the positive impact they have on our neighborhoods, our economy, and our sense of community.

Andi McClintic is assistant director of lending services with the Center for Rural Affairs, a private, non-profit organization.

120.18 Acres+/- Farm, Home & Pond - Livingston County



Call Auctioneer David Klein, in Bloomington at 309-261-3117 or Broker Phillip Rich, 309-665-0957

LEROY ROLOFF ESTATE

1 mile north of Odell on 2700 North Road just west of I-55. Bryce-Swygert soils cropland, ranch style home, creek, pond & recreational land. Please visit firstmidag.com for details on this unique farm!

First Mid

AG SERVICES
Ronald Fellheimer Attorney for Seller
210 N. Main Street, Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-3858

Shop Berkot's and Save More! Check Out These Deals!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!



PRE-ORDER FRESH ROSEBUD TURKEYS
WHOLE TURKEYS 99¢/LB & TURKEY BREASTS \$2.99/LB
VISIT BERKOTFOODS.COM TODAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

Sales valid 11/14/24-11/20/24 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM
ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Bob Evans Side Dishes 12-24 oz DIGITAL COUPON 2/\$5 LIMIT 4 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$4.99 | Prairie Farms 1% 2%, or Skim Milk- 1 Gallon DIGITAL COUPON \$2.99 ea WHEN BUYING 2 LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$3.49 | 7 Up Family Soda 24 pk 12 oz cans DIGITAL COUPON \$9.99 ea LIMIT 2 24-PACKS LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$11.99 | Coke Family Soda 24 pk 12 oz cans DIGITAL COUPON \$10.99 ea LIMIT 2 24-PACKS LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$13.99 |
| Pepsi Family Soda- 12 pk 12 oz cans DIGITAL COUPON \$4.99 ea LIMIT 2 12-PACKS LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$6.99 | Lipton Pureleaf Tea- 6 pk 16.9 oz Iced Tea- 12 pk 16.9 oz DIGITAL COUPON \$4.99 ea LIMIT 2 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$7.99 | Powerade Drinks- 8 pk 20 oz Vitamin Water Drinks- 6 pk 16.9 oz DIGITAL COUPON \$3.99 ea LIMIT 2 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$6.99 | |

BUY 3 SAVE \$6 Mix & Match Any Item
With a **\$3** Logo To Save!

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Shaved Ham or Turkey 15-16 oz \$6.49 when buying 3 Single Price: \$8.49 | Kool-Aid , Country Time, or Tang Drink Mix 6-8 qt \$3.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$5.99 | Oscar Mayer Sliced Bologna or Cotto Salami- 16 oz \$1.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$3.99 | Kraft Mayonnaise 30 oz \$2.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$4.99 | Kraft Miracle Whip Heinz Ketchup 30-32 oz \$3.49 when buying 3 Single Price: \$5.49 |
| Kraft American Singles Twin Pack- 24 oz \$5.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$7.99 | Kraft Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese or Velveeta Shells & Cheese- 3 pk \$6.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$8.99 | Velveeta Loaf- 32 oz \$5.99 when buying 3 Single Price: \$7.99 | | |
| Entenmann's Little Bites Muffins, Cakes, or Cookies 6.88-9.75 oz Reg. \$5.79 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE | Best Choice Chunk or Shredded Cheese 6-8 oz 2 FOR \$4 | Campbell's Chunky Soup or Bowls 15.25-19 oz 2 FOR \$4 | Sugardale Regular or Thick Sliced Bacon- 1 lb \$3.99 EACH | |

Berkot's has the most delicious, top-quality meat

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Jennie-O Frozen Turkeys DIGITAL COUPON 59¢ lb WITH \$25 PURCHASE LIMIT 1 TURKEY* Price without coupon: \$1.49 lb | PRE-ORDER FRESH ROSEBUD TURKEYS WHOLE TURKEYS 99¢ PER LB | Honeysuckle White Frozen Bone-In Turkey Breast DIGITAL COUPON 99¢ lb LIMIT 1 TURKEY* Price without coupon: \$2.99 lb | Berkot's Farm Fresh Boneless Skinless Chicken Thighs \$1.99 PER LB | Berkot's Fresh, All-Natural Duroc Boneless Pork Roasts- 40 oz DIGITAL COUPON \$5 ea LIMIT 4 PACKAGES* Price without coupon: \$4.99 lb |
|--|---|--|--|---|

\$1.99 with digital coupon*

Little Potato Company Potatoes- 1.5 lb • Young Coconuts • Fresh Express Bagged Salads- 5-6 oz • Old Fashioned Marzetti Caramel Dip • Personal Sized Watermelons • Dragonfruit- per lb

99¢ with digital coupon*

Wild Wonders Tomato Medley Bowl- 12 oz • Wonderful Pomegranates • Juicy Mangos • Grape Tomatoes- pint • Farm Fresh Cucumbers • Seedless Cucumbers • Creamy Avocados • Booth Ranches New Crop California Navel Oranges- per lb • Farm Fresh Zucchini- per lb • Snow White Cauliflower- per lb • Tomatoes on the Vine- per lb

*Price without digital coupon varies. Limits vary. Items sold by the pound are limited to total specified number of pounds in a single transaction.

20% OFF SELECT WINES when buying any 6 750ml, 1 L, or 1.5 L bottles mix, match, & save!

Miller Lite, MGD, or Miller Extra Light 24 pk 12 oz btls or cans
Bud Light or Budweiser 24 pk 12 oz btls or cans
Coors or Coors Light 24 pk 12 oz btls or cans

DIGITAL COUPON
\$15.99
ea
LIMIT 2 24-PACKS PER BRAND FAMILY
LIMIT 1 OFFER*
Price without coupon: \$19.99 ea

*Clip Coupon at BERKOTFOODS.COM & Share Loyalty Phone Number at Register to Redeem Limit Permitted Per Loyalty Account Per Ad Week.

3 DAY SUPER SALE
11/15-11/17 ONLY

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Berkot's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef (3 lbs or more) DIGITAL COUPON \$2.99 lb LIMIT 1 PACKAGE* Price without coupon: \$5.49 lb 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Censea Large Raw Peeled Shrimp 31/40 ct (Sold in 1 lb bag) \$5.99 EACH LIMIT 4* 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Aunt Millie's Deluxe White, 100% Whole or Honey Wheat Bread- 22 oz Stadium Hot Dog or Hamburger Buns- 8 pk Johnsonville Brat Buns 6 pk DIGITAL COUPON 99¢ ea LIMIT 2 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$2.49 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Absopure Purified Water 24 pk .5L btls DIGITAL COUPON \$1.99 ea LIMIT 4 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$3.99 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Home Run Inn 12" Classic 27-33 oz DIGITAL COUPON \$4.99 ea LIMIT 4 PIZZAS LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$9.99 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | 7 Up Family Soda- 2 L DIGITAL COUPON 79¢ ea LIMIT 4 BOTTLES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$2.49 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Sweet Golden Personal Size Pineapples DIGITAL COUPON 99¢ ea LIMIT 4 PINEAPPLES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$3.49 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Berkot's Fresh-Cut Pineapple Bowls- 22 oz..... \$4.99 EACH | Blueberries Full Pint DIGITAL COUPON 99¢ ea LIMIT 2 PACKAGES LIMIT 1 OFFER* Price without coupon: \$3.99 ea 11/15-11/17 ONLY | Super Premium Seedless Green or Red Grapes DIGITAL COUPON \$1.99 lb LIMIT 10 LBS IN 1 TRANSACTION* Price without coupon: \$3.99 lb 11/15-11/17 ONLY |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Leaves

Leave them or mow them

Your fall tip from Will County Green: As the leaves fall, think about them differently. Instead of raking and bagging them, consider the benefits they offer your lawn and the many insects or animals that share it.

Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as they break down; basically becoming free mulch and fertilizer. Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat.

Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many caterpillars burrow in fallen leaves for

the winter before emerging as moths and butterflies in the spring.


If you still feel the need to tidy your lawn, consider adopting these options

- Chop the leaves with a mulching mower but leave them on the lawn and they will decompose naturally.
- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves (brown material) with grass clippings and other green material and keep moist and well mixed. You'll have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring.

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome

All forms of insurance accepted



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
Call (815) 634-8844

warrencollisioncenteril.com



- ✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
- ✓ Rentals available
- ✓ Certified technicians
- ✓ All insurance accepted
- ✓ Completed in a timely fashion

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER

860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun., Nov. 17, 3pm - 6pm

SILVERSTRINGS

Country, Blue Grass and more • No Cover

Nov. 27 • Black Wednesday

8pm - 12am

THE SUMTHINS

Classic Rock • No Cover



TUFFY'S
WILMINGTON, IL

Like us on!   

A Class Act

Check out our website

Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment
1099 S. Water St. (Rt. 102), Wilmington • (815) 476-2700

Pay just \$7 per month to have your business name and number in front of local customers everyday for a full year.



Our Free Press desk calendars are distributed to hundreds of area desks and hang in public locations like businesses, schools, government buildings and residents. Get your businesses name and contact information on each month for affordable Top of Mind Awareness that reminds them you're local and to call you first. At just \$7 per month your listing will pay for itself when it comes to carryout orders or to initiate an appointment for your services. Great for new businesses to remind them daily that you exist.

Call Eric Fisher before Nov. 15.

815-476-7966 or email efisher@fpnusa.com

All 12 months will be included on one invoice

Illinois leaders looking

'Trump-proof' state laws with \$3.16 billion deficit looming

Back in 2018, about midway through President Donald Trump's first term, the Illinois Senate passed a bill that was designed to prevent "the weakening of Illinois environmental and labor regulations in response to a weakening of federal regulations," according to an Illinois Environmental Council press release.

Some state rules are tied directly to federal rules, so if the feds had slashed regulations, the idea was to prevent that from happening here.

"This bill aims to preserve the status quo of Illinois' current safeguards as the federal administration continues to roll back environmental standards," the IEC claimed at the time. "The Illinois Baseline Protection Act would prevent the weakening of any current Illinois standard below the federal standard already in place."

The bill, SB2213, went nowhere in the House, however.

As I've been telling my subscribers for a while now, some Democrats are looking at "Trump-proofing" state statues going forward, perhaps as early as the November veto session, although no language is currently circulating, so it may have to wait.

Gov. JB Pritzker was asked about this topic last



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

week and said he'd met with his senior staff about the concept. He also "talked to some other governors around the country about the things that they're looking at doing."

California's Democratic governor has already called a special legislative session.

Pritzker didn't say if he'd come up with any ideas, but he listed "health care, reproductive rights" as possible topics.

Illinois' trade unions, led by Local 150 of the Operating Engineers Union, have been looking at this topic since before the election. While no legislation has yet been drafted, they said they are gaming situations about what would happen if the feds repealed the Davis Bacon Act, which sets the prevailing wage on government contracts.

They're also looking at creating a state version of the National Labor Relations Act, which is the basis for all federal labor laws on organizing, collective bargaining and the right to strike. Some businesses, including Elon Musk's Tesla, have challenged the constitutionality of the NLRA.

I asked House Speaker Chris Welch for comment on what might happen in the near future.

"This week has proven that the work we've done in Illinois matters more than

ever, and I'm grateful that we've taken steps to safeguard the rights and values that are now at extreme risk in many surrounding states. We'll be heading into this veto session with a renewed determination to ensure our fundamental freedoms remain protected."

But Illinois reality is also starting to intrude.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget published its mandated five-year budget projection late last month, and it was bad news for the state, to the tune of a projected \$3.16 billion deficit in the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

"The ability to fund new programs will be severely limited," the budget office warned.

A caveat: The spending and most of the revenue projections are made using current laws and past trends. The economy can change, and laws and practices can be changed.

GOMB also issued a reminder of something we all learned during the budget impasse years ago: "Spending reductions cannot be implemented broadly across-the-board. Areas such as debt service on state general obligation bonds, pension payments, Medicaid, and areas that are covered by consent decrees reflect approximately 40 percent of the State's General Funds spending. Education spending – primarily base school support (e.g. Evidence Based Funding and transportation reimbursements), state univer-

sity operations, and need-based assistance – encompass another 24 percent of the budget."

That would mean 16 percent cuts to what can be reduced, without taking other action.

Donald Trump's much-improved state election results here (halving his loss margin from his last two races) do not create the sort of political environment you want when facing a big deficit next fiscal year – especially if you're a governor with his eyes on the White House.

Despite the fact that Illinois state and local Democrats appear to have held on to most every office they had, their earlier exuberance contrasted poorly with that final Trump number. And that can put the fear into legislators. Fearful legislators may not want to stick their necks out for a tax hike.

Pritzker himself downplayed his own budget office's projection by saying the annual forecast has "been wrong every year."

Yes, we have seen some wild projections. But the crazy pandemic-era fiscal swings have mostly ended, making projections a bit easier.

Pritzker told reporters that his administration had "defeated" dire predictions every year and pledged to introduce and pass a balanced budget next year.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

Gas dipping below \$3/g

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 8.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.15/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 32.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 38.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

In Wilmington expect to pay \$3.08/g at Mohsen's up to \$3.15/g at Shell. In Braidwood, gas will run you \$3.08/g at Casey's and \$3.19/g at Marathon. Coal City gas runs the gamut between \$3.07/g at Shell and \$3.12/g at BP.

In Morris, gas has dipped below \$3/g, with Casey's gas at \$2.95/g, but BP will run you \$3.04/g. In Bourbonnais, gas is relatively cheap, with Gulf at \$2.84/g and BP at \$2.95/g.

"While the election has come and gone, gas prices have stayed the

Remember our veterans by sponsoring a wreath

Sponsor a wreath for one of over 90,000 veterans' graves at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, 20953 Hoff Rd, Elwood. The wreath laying will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Wreaths are placed after a 20-minute ceremony. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help place wreaths, dress appropriately for the cold.

Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation and may be made for a specific veteran or any veteran.

Complete the form below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Wreaths Across America and mailed to: Wreath Project, C/O Will Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Rd., Joliet, IL 60433.

Sponsorships are being collected through Nov. 21 for the year 2024 campaign. Order online at Wreaths Across America website and include cemetery ID: ILALNE or group number ID: M00085P.

Grave specific sponsorship

Complete a separate form for each veteran. Sponsors who attend the wreath laying on Saturday, Dec. 14, can place the wreath on that specific grave.

Veteran's name: _____

Section and grave marker (required): _____

Contact phone number (required): _____

Will you be there to place the wreath yourself: Yes ___ No ___

Non-specific grave sponsorship

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| One wreath at \$17 or two for \$34 | _____ |
| Family: four wreaths for \$68 | _____ |
| Business: 10 wreaths for \$170 | _____ |
| Corporate: 100 wreaths for \$1,700 | _____ |

The Reed-Custer High School Class of 1974

50th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: TOP FUEL SALOON
275 South Hickory Street
Braidwood, IL
(Former Knights of Columbus Hall)

TOP FUEL is a full restaurant and bar; where you will be able to purchase your own food & beverages if desired. A room with chairs & tables will be available for our class to gather, catch up and share past memories & good times with each other. No other provisions will be provided. If you have any questions, please call:

Sherri Favero Lestina 815-250-8883

Military couple follows in the footsteps of family who served before them

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Veterans Day often conjures up images of older veterans - those who served in World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. Since Vietnam there have been major conflicts such as the Persian Gulf War of 1991, the War in Afghanistan in 2001, and the War in Iraq in 2003. There was also America's involvement in the Kosovo War, Syrian War, and involvement in the conflicts between foreign countries.

And where there is conflict, you will find veterans.

Ashley Strong, 31, and her husband, Garrett Saulters, 32, both natives of Wilmington, fell in love, and married. They have a lot in common, including the desire to serve their nation. Each was influenced by a loved one who served in the Armed Forces, inspiring them to pursue a career in the military.

Ashley is the daughter of Lynn Strong and former Wilmington mayor Roy Strong, who served from 1967 to 1971 in the Marine Corps during Vietnam. He served as a sergeant in the capacity of a jet mechanic. In Vietnam he was a door gunner in the Air Wing of the Marines, risking his life at every turn.

"I got shot down five times in Vietnam," Roy Strong said. "I shared that with Ashley, of course. You'd think it would do the opposite of influencing her to join the military."

Instead of discouraging his daughter, Roy's war stories fascinated her. Between his tales of heroism and stories of the bond created between those who serve, Ashley was sold.

"Growing up he was always telling me his favorite stories of good times he had in the service and great people that he served alongside," Ashley said. "I wanted to make those same memories, and get the chance to provide a service to my country."

Like Ashley, Saulters was inspired to serve by a relative. In his case, his grandfather was a major influence in his decision to join the Navy.

"My grandpa, Donald Tulley, served during the Korean War and would often tell stories from the



Courtesy photo

GARRETT SAULTERS AND Ashley Strong, natives of Wilmington are both lieutenants in the Navy, specializing in naval aviation. Both were influenced to serve by relatives.

time he spent in the U.S. Navy," Saulters said. "It was from those stories that I gained an initial interest in joining the military and what it had to offer. His work ethic, logic, and reasoning was evidently a product of what he learned in the service, and admiring this all my life, I knew the Navy was a great place to start."

Flying high and proud
Ashley and Garrett are both lieutenants in the Navy, serving as naval aviators. They take their calling seriously, understanding the potential risks and the need to protect those in their charge.

Becoming a naval aviator is intensely challenging. A highly competitive position, the training syllabus runs 18 to 24 months for initial winging. Aviators are responsible for flying advanced aircraft, maintaining internal and external systems of the aircraft, providing attack, defense, and logistical support to the fleet, surveillance, and training.

The couple learned to fly advanced aircraft including the T-6B, a low-wing cantilever monoplane with enclosed tandem seating, with a cruise speed of 320 mph.

Both also fly the TH-57b/c, helicopters used for training, chase and utility missions, the TH-73A helicopter, also known as the Thrasher, and the MH-60S Seahawk used for combat support, disaster relief, combat search and rescue, aero medical evacuation, SPECWAR and organic Airborne Mine Countermeasures.

Not only are Ashley and Garrett expert aviators, they are also instructor pilots at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, FL, teaching young naval aviators how to fly the TH-57 helicopter.

A parent's worries
According to Roy Strong, his daughter had once planned to study nursing upon graduating high school.

"Originally, Ashley was going to go to the University of Illinois to become a nurse," Roy said. "And I thought that would be pretty neat. Then she applied to the Naval Academy, and got accepted. Well, they don't have nursing in the academy, so she ended up in ocean engineering."

Ashley was commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2015, and has been serving active duty for nine years. She plans to

continue serving in the Navy Reserves until she reaches 20 years.

Saulters has a similar background and plans.

"I am currently in my eighth year of active service and plan to serve at least 20 in total," he said. "I was commissioned from Purdue University ROTC in May 2016."

Though Roy is proud of his daughter's career choice, and honored to have influenced her, he sometimes fears for her future.

"She's been deployed twice, and things are worse since Vietnam, it's easier to blow a helicopter out of the air," he said. "I have dreams that I'm back in the helicopter and she's my pilot. I wake up scared."

Though the Navy couple have chosen a challenging, potentially dangerous career, both are content with their choices. They accept the risks as they do the accolades. Both have learned important lessons and their experiences have shaped their lives and future.

"As a Helicopter Aircraft Commander it is my sole responsibility to execute the mission while keeping everyone in my crew safe," Ashley said. "The Navy has taught me that sometimes, in order to be successful in this, you have to put others' needs above your own. In the Navy, people come first, we take care of each other no matter what."

Custer Park Lighting of the Trees

The 12th annual Lighting of the Trees will be on Friday, Nov. 22, at 5:45 p.m., at the Custer Park Town Hall.

The Reed-Custer Madrigal singers and Madrigal instrument ensembles will perform Christmas music. Santa will be making an appearance around 6:45. Hot dogs & hot chocolate will be provided.

The event is free to the public.

PEOPLE WHO READ NEWSPAPERS ARE

STUDENTS WITH BETTER GRADES

It all starts with newspapers

Lisa Marie's HAIR SALON

- Men
- Women
- Children

CUTS ★ COLOR

450 Davy Ln., Wilmington
(708) 465-3198

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

WEE SIP LIQUORS

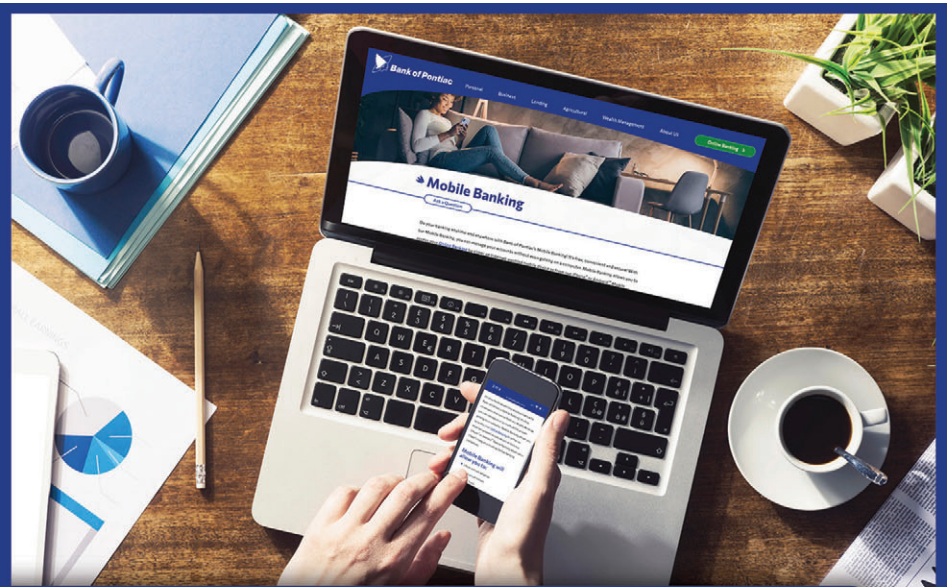
10/28/24 - 12/10/24

DECEMBER CASH GIVEAWAY

2 WINNERS OF \$500 ON 12/10/24
WINNER DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

WEE SIP LIQUORS

1099 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-2764



Enroll in eStatements Today!

Easy access at your fingertips:

- Account eStatements
- eStatements for Loans
- 1098 Mortgage Interest Statements

Enrolling in eStatements is fast & simple!



Bank of Pontiac

Bloomington • Coal City • Delavan • Dwight • Fairbury • Forrest
Melvin • Minier • Odell • Paxton • Piper City • Pontiac

Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com

Member FDIC



Do you have pain in your

**Neck • Back • Shoulder • Elbow
Hand • Knee • Hip • Foot or Ankle?**

Our specialists provide expert care and treatment of orthopedic-related injuries and problems, always considering conservative treatment methods first.

And if surgery is needed, we offer the latest innovations and techniques including Mako™ Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery to help you move well and live better!

Call today for an appointment:

Diamond-Coal City and Morris 815-942-4875

Joliet (Houbolt Rd) 815-741-4000

Ottawa 815-433-0850



**MORRIS HOSPITAL
ORTHOPEDICS
& SPORTS MEDICINE**

morrishospital.org/orthopedics

OBITUARIES

Donald S. Malkowski



ELWOOD—Donald S. Malkowski, 88, of Elwood, and formerly of Naperville, passed away Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, at Ascension Villa Franciscan in Joliet.

Born in Chicago on July 14, 1936, Don was a twin son of Edward and Cecilia (Pacsik) Malkowski. Orphaned at a young age, Don and his twin brother, Ronald, grew up at Glenwood School for Boys, where they received their education and strong sense of discipline and community. The brothers both went on to serve as military police in the U.S. Army, embodying honor and dedication until their honorable discharge.

In 1956, Don married the love of his life, Nancy Shiltz. Together, they settled in Naperville and welcomed their son, Andrew. Despite the heartbreaking loss of Andrew, Don and Nancy continued their journey of parenthood by fostering Timothy Harvey, who became their son and survives him today.

Don built a career as a skilled bricklayer, working with Bricklayers & Allied Crafts Local 74 and joining RamCorp, Inc. in Wilmington, where he remained until his retirement. His craft was his pride, and his dedication extended beyond his career into his personal life. He was a member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge #241 and the Fraternal Order of Eagles East Joliet Arie 3585.

Known for his deep love of the outdoors, Don found solace in the beauty of



nature, spending countless hours hunting, fishing, and meticulously caring for his yard. He was an avid reader, consuming novels and periodicals alike, and a lifelong fan of the Chicago Bears. His boundless energy was matched only by his loyalty to those he loved, especially his brother Ron, with whom he shared many adventures.

Don Malkowski leaves behind a legacy of hard work, resilience, and love for family and friends. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him as a devoted husband, father, loving companion, brother, dedicated craftsman, and a man who truly knew how to embrace life.

Survivors include his loving companion of 16 years, Cynthia Cullen, of Elwood; son, Timothy Harvey (Cathy Richardson), of Paw Paw, IL and one nephew, Randy Malkowski, of Downers Grove.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; son, Andrew (1989); wife, Nancy (2001) and brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Carol Malkowski.

Per Don's wishes cremation rites are being accorded.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Jerry A. Barham

COAL CITY—Jerry A. Barham, 83, of Coal City, passed away Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024 at Arcadia Care of Morris.

Born Feb. 7, 1941 in Hillsboro, IL, Jerry Arthur was a son of Arthur James and Florence (Weddle) Barham. He grew up in Hillsboro, where he completed his education and graduated from high school.

Jerry's life was marked by dedication and love. He married his beloved wife, Rita Pfister, and together they built a home and life in Diamond and later Coal City, where they lovingly raised their sons. Jerry worked tirelessly as a machinist at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet until his well-deserved retirement. However, his natural industriousness didn't allow him to rest for long. He began cutting grass for the Coal City School District, a role that evolved into a full-time janitorial position he held for several years before retiring a second time.

Known for his presence throughout town, Jerry could often be seen walking about with purpose. He was an active member of the Coal City Area Club and found joy in participating in activities at the Godley Park District. A man with a deep connection to nature, Jerry took great pride in his lawn and garden, cultivating not just plants but memories. He and Rita shared a life enriched by travel, exploring both domestic and international destinations and collecting experiences that bonded them further.

Sports were another passion, and Jerry was an enthusiastic supporter of Coal City's local teams. His unwavering spirit, hard work, and genuine kindness earned him admiration from all who knew him. Above all, Jerry's heart was dedicated to his family. His most cherished roles were that of a loving husband, father and grandfather, whose presence filled their lives with



love and warmth.

Jerry Barham will be remembered not only for his diligence and community spirit but for his boundless kindness and the deep affection he held for those closest to him. His legacy of love and hard work will continue to be a guiding light for his family and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Survivors include his sons, Mark Barham (fiancé - Rose Gabriel), of Elk Grove Village, IL and Greg (Linda) Barham, of Plainfield; one grandson, Bobby Barham and special step-grandchildren: Hala Daramjee and Joey and Frankie Nagy; one brother, Mike (Eugena) Barham, of Elburn, IL and one brother-in-law, Robert (the late Mary) Pfister, of Arlington, TX, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rita on May 10, 2024; two sisters, Doris DeVries and Beulah Helfer and two brothers.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Burial will follow in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, where Jerry will be laid to rest with his late wife, Rita.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jerry's memory to a charity of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jerry's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

James Stewart Jr.

WILMINGTON—James "Randy" Stewart Jr., 59 of Wilmington, and known by many as "Scoot," passed away Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024 at his home.

Born on April 28, 1965, in Joliet, he was a son of James Randall Sr. and Jacqueline (Walls) Stewart. Randy was raised and educated in Joliet, where he later embarked on a career as an operator with the railroad, dedicating 17 years to Parsec, Inc.

Randy was a proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous, cherishing his sobriety for the past seven years. His passions in life included fishing, traveling, supporting the Chicago Cubs and spending quality time with family, particularly with his loved ones in Mississippi.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, Randy was loved by many and will be deeply missed by all those whom were fortunate enough to share in his life.

Survivors include his loving wife, Stephani, who has been by his side for the past 31 years; six children: Ashley Stewart (Justin), Amanda Stewart (Halfred), Tanya (Keith) Jenkins, Steven (Stephanie) Carter, Allison Stewart (Christopher) and James Stewart III; nine grandchildren: Armani, Carson, Madison, Carter, Kaylie, Shiloh,



Maliyah, Dahzire and Thomas Jay with another expected; one brother, Mathew (Lisa) Stewart; two sisters, Lorraine Stewart and Cynthia Stewart; his aunt, Chris Cravens; uncle, Matthew (Karri) Welter; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bill and Nancy Carter, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his dear friend, Larry Melville and his beloved sponsor, Art.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. until time of funeral service at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Jeff Urban from Christian Faith Center will officiate and cremation rites will be accorded at the conclusion of the services.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Randy's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Audrea Lopez

GODLEY—Audrea Lopez, 41, of Godley, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024 at Morris Hospital.

Born March 21, 1983, in Joliet, Audrea Ellen was a daughter of Vanessa (Neely) Bortkewicz and Jerry Riggs. She was raised and educated in Dixon, TN and graduated from Hickman County High School with the class of 2000. Audrea later relocated to Godley, and previously worked as an assistant deli manager at Berkots Super Foods in Braidwood. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and with her family. Audrea dearly loved her son, Michael, and was a proud mother. She will be deeply missed by those that loved her.

Survivors include her parents: Vanessa (Rich) Bortkewicz, of Morris and Jerry (Barb) Riggs, of Wilmington; her maternal grandmother, Phyllis (the late Dean) Voyles, of Shelbyville, IL; her beloved son, Michael Hartzell Lopez, of Godley; six brothers and sisters: GeorgieAnna (the late Ralph) Brainard, of Bradley; Kristina (Alberto) Reyes, of Joliet; Jerry (Brienne) Riggs Jr., of Wilmington;



Thomas Edward Kruger Jr., of Godley; Samantha Riggs and Cheianne Riggs, both of Wilmington; as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins, and several nieces and nephews.

Audrea was preceded in death by her grandparents: James and Audrey Neely and Harold and Hazel Riggs; one great-aunt, Pearl Adams and two aunts and one uncle: Harold "Buddy" Riggs Jr., Barbara Shafer, and Betty Hatfield.

Family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Audrea's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

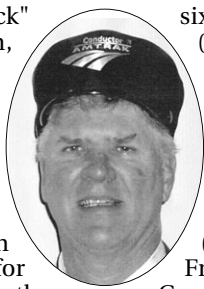
Richard Welchko, Jr.

WILMINGTON—Richard "Rick" Welchko Jr., 73 of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024 at his home.

Born March 5, 1951 in Chicago, Richard Lambert was a son of Richard, Sr. and Shirley (Grimm) Welchko. He was raised and educated in Midlothian and graduated from Marist High School. Rick worked for Amtrak for thirty years as well as serving as the water operator for Lakewood Shores. He was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, serving with the Fr. George Kuzma Knights of Columbus Council #11149.

Rick enjoyed living in Lakewood Shores, with boating and rollerblading being some of his favorite pastimes. He was a skilled man, using his talents for construction on homes and his garage, and also working on old cars. Above all else, Rick was a family man who knew family came first. He loved being with his family, particularly his grandchildren who held a very special place in his heart. Rick's legacy of hard work and love of family will be remembered and treasured by all those who knew him.

Survivors include his wife, Cheryl Welchko, whom he married March 28, 1993; three children: Richard (Jaime) Welchko III of Oswego, IL; David (Tiffany) Welchko of Berwyn, IL; and John (Tanya) Welchko of Romeoville, IL; one step-son, Clint (Kimberly) Cogswell of Elwood, IL;



six grandchildren: Christopher (Alexis) Welchko, Brandon (fiancé: Elizabeth) Welchko, Dana (David) Palan, Hannah Welchko, Paxton Welchko, and Lily Welchko; two brothers and two sisters: Sharon (the late Harold) Sanders of Wilmington; Don Welchko of Michigan; Wayne (Mary Ellen) Welchko of Frankfort, IL; and Karen (Charles) Goodell of Colorado Springs, CO; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Nov. 16, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 1:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

The family will be planning a Celebration of Rick's Life in March to honor his birthday.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Rick's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or Lightways Hospice.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Rick's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Joyce Henke

COAL CITY—Joyce Henke, 91, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 11, 2024.

Born Aug. 15, 1933, she was the daughter of Frank and Marguerite (Stroud) Montgomery. On April 8, 1956 she married John Henke.

Joyce is survived by her children: Beverly Henke, of Coal City; Lori (Greg) Hensley, of Dwight; James (Donna) Henke, of Kankakee and Chris Berta, of Dwight; two grandchil-



dren, Nicole Borens and Tony Berta (fiancé Shelley Davis); two great-grandsons, Easton and Tanner Berta; a brother, Don (Becky) Montgomery, of Channahon; sister, Sheryl Cook and sister-in-law, Juanita Pantaleone.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John; son, Michael and two brothers, Bob and Dick Montgomery.

A private service will be held.

Michael Zeiger, Sr.

HARDIN, IL—Michael Gerard Zeiger, 64, of Hardin, IL and formerly Braidwood, passed away Sept. 14, 2024 in Hardin. Michael was born June 28, 1960 to Patrick and Helen Zeiger.

Michael was a heavy equipment mechanic and belonged to The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150.

Survivors include his son Michael (Cassandra) Zeiger, Jr. of Oregon, WI; daughter Korinne Zeiger of Braidwood; one grandson Michael F. Zeiger; two sisters Kathleen Zeiger of



Braidwood; Carolyn Donovan of Wilmington and numerous nieces and nephews.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents Patrick and Helen Zeiger; sisters Nancy Patrick and Marilyn Ca; brother Patrick Zeiger.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday Oct. 19th, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the large pavillion at Godley Park District 500 S. Kankakee St. Godley, IL 60407. The prayer service will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a reception after.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Wilmington Park District for 2024-2025 will be held on the 21st day of November, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District located at 315 N. Water Street, Wilmington, Illinois

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may appear at the hearing, and they will be allowed to give testimony.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes as extended for 2023-2024 were \$574,711.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024-2025 are \$630,889.00. This represents an increase of approximately 9% over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes as extended for debt service for 2023-2024 was \$14,377.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2024-2025 is \$8,229.00. This represents a decrease of approximately 57% over the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes as extended for 2023-2024 was \$574,711.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024-2025 are \$630,889.00. This represents an increase of approximately 9% over the previous year.

Printed by Order of the Corporate Authorities of the Wilmington Park District, Will County, Illinois

Chili and 100 turkeys

Fundraising supper going to make a lot of people happy

The Gardner Fire Department will hold its biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday, Nov. 22 that could have you extra thankful for the Thanksgiving Day feast.

Buy a raffle ticket, eat a bowl (or two) of chili, and you could head home a winner of a turkey.

That's because 100 frozen turkeys will be raffled with a new winner announced every 10 minutes starting at 6 p.m.

Last year, with the help of Berkot's Super Foods, the fire district was able to introduce the turkey raffle. The response was great so the fundraiser was brought back for a second time.

The chili supper will be held at the Gardner American Legion Hall,

426 Industry Dr, with doors opening at 4 p.m. There will lots of raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a portable generator, gun raffle and more.

For \$10 adults, and \$6 for senior citizens and kids under age 12, each person can have their fill of chili, drink, dessert and all the fun to be had.

The most important part of the chili supper is just having a community event where neighbors can come out and be neighbors.

Gardner Fire Protection District must follow the same standards and regulations as a big fire department, like Chicago Fire Department. It periodically has to replace fire-fighting gear, air packs and tools because everything has an expiration date. Proceeds from the chili supper help offset those costs.

So support these dedicated first responders by eating some chili. And if you're lucky you'll have your Thanksgiving turkey to take home too.

Wilmington Park District

Christkindl Market

Sat., Nov 30th
2 - 7 PM

30+ VENDORS WITH HOLIDAY GOODS. SHOP YOUR LOCAL ARTISANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS! FOOD TRUCKS, HOT CHOCOLATE AND PHOTO OPS! IT'S A CAN'T MISS, GET YOU IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT MARKET! FROM DOG TREATS TO PEOPLE TREATS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!

1-3PM GEMINI GIANT WELCOME HOME!
2-7PM - CHRISTKINDLMARKET
3-6PM - KIDS KORNER OPEN
3-7PM LATE NIGHT SHOPPING DOWNTOWN
5PM - CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARADE
5:45PM - TREE LIGHTING & SHOWCATS
6-7PM - SANTA PICTURES

DRESS WARM & SHOP LOCAL THIS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY!

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIALS FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

KIDS KORNER - NEXT TO THE SCOOP @ JACKSON ST.
CHRISTKINDLMARKET - DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT
SANTA PICS & TREE LIGHTING - CLAIRE'S CORNER
GEMINI GIANT - SOUTH ISLAND ENTRANCE

WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

128th ANNIVERSARY SALE

Tuesday, November 19th, 2-8pm

18.96% OFF

ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING IN THE STORE

Even the Big Stuff!

Grills ~ Power tools ~ Snow throwers

Christmas lights & decor ~
Hardware Paint ~ Bird feed ~
Icemelt & more...

Sign up on November 19th
from 2-8pm

for a chance to win a
FREE Weber 28in 3 Burner
Propane Outdoor Griddle

FREE GIFT FOR EVERYBODY

\$449.99
value



Helping our neighbors since 1896

in stock items only -no special
order or online orders
Gift cards are excluded



giveaway raffle

Coming Soon
New Wilmington Office

YOUR NEW HOME
DESERVES THE
BEST PROTECTION

American Family Insurance is proud to be named Best Homeowners Insurance of 2021 by Forbes Advisor.

Contact me today and get the protection you deserve.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53703 ©2020 1814-4271-1422138

Forbes ADVISOR BEST Homeowners Insurance 2021

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

Electronics dropoff in Wilmington

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Nov. 14, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers

(desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

Give a gift subscription this year.
Call 815-476-7966.



Button for a good cause

BE ON THE LOOKOUT for these buttons at select Wilmington area businesses as a 50/50 Give Back drawing will be held for Kuzma Care Cottage, the local food pantry. Buy a button for \$3 and hang onto it until Dec. 13 when a lucky number will be drawn to determine a winner. Half will go to the winner while the other half will be given to Kuzma Care Cottage during their holiday campaign to feed families in need. The last button drawing held by the Chamber resulted in \$840 to the lucky winner.

TURKEY TROT
5K RUN AND WALK

Iron Bridge Trail - Midewin
2 miles North of Welcome Center

Sunday, November 24th
Check-in: 8am-9:45am
Race: 10am

*T-shirt included in entry fee!

*For every adult fee, choice to add on a youth (13 and under) for \$20.

Register today at www.islandparkdistrict.com or www.runsignup.com

WILLS & ESTATES

The experience and personal attention to help you secure a lasting and meaningful legacy:

Simple wills
Estate planning
Trust administration & probate

Call 815-476-7635 to make an appointment.

207 S. Water St.,
Wilmington

FM FISHER MEENTS LLC

The effects of de-icing chemicals on the environment

Dear EarthTalk: Are road salts and other de-icing chemicals bad for the environment? And if, so are greener alternatives available?

-- Jane Willis, Fairfield, IA

EARTH TALK Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Traditional de-icers, particularly chloride-based compounds such as sodium chloride, magnesium chloride and calcium chloride, can have various detrimental effects on the environment. According to the Minnesota Stormwater Manual, chloride-based de-icers contribute to soil degradation by reducing soil permeability and fertility, and by increasing soil alkalinity, which adversely affects plant growth and soil stability.

These de-icers contaminate groundwater and surface water, leading to toxic conditions for aquatic life due to elevated salt levels. Vegetation damage is another issue, as chloride exposure causes osmotic stress, leading to damaged roots and foliage.

Furthermore, the corrosive nature of these chemicals accelerates the deterioration of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and vehicles.

Recognizing these issues, there are several greener alternatives to traditional de-icing chemicals. Eco-friendly de-icers, such as those offered by Green Ice Melt, use plant-based ingredients that are

biodegradable, have minimal soil and water impact, and are safe for pets.

These are also non-corrosive, ensuring that infrastructure remains protected. Non-chloride products, including acetate-based deicers like calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate, offer a less corrosive option.

However, these can still deplete oxygen water due to their organic content. Carbohydrate-based deicers, derived from beet juice, molasses and corn syrup, have minimal impact and effectively reduce the freezing point ecologically.

Several other techniques can also be employed. Anti-icing, which involves applying salt brine before snowstorms to prevent ice formation and reduce the amount of de-icer needed later.

This proactive approach maintains safer conditions with less environmental damage. Pre-wetting salt with brine before application enhances its effectiveness,

ensuring that the de-icer adheres better to surfaces and reduces scatter, thereby improving efficiency and minimizing overall usage.

Public awareness campaigns about the benefits of eco-friendly de-icers can also play a significant role in encouraging wider adoption. Furthermore, municipalities and businesses can invest in advanced spreading equipment that ensures precise application, reducing waste and environmental contamination.

Encouraging the development and use of new technologies, such as the propylene glycol and aqueous sodium formate mixture developed by Osaka Metropolitan University researchers, can further reduce the environmental footprint of de-icing operation. By making informed choices and embracing sustainable practices, we can ensure safer winter conditions while safeguarding our environment.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



ECO-FRIENDLY DE-ICERS use plant-based ingredients that are biodegradable, have minimal soil and water impact, and are safe for pets.

SURF Internet.

A special gift from Surf just in time for the holidays!

Sign up today and get a **\$100 or \$50 gift card*** with qualifying plans.

SURF Internet.
Up to **\$100** Gift Card

- ✓ NO Contracts
- ✓ NO Data Caps
- ✓ NO Hidden Fees
- ✓ Price-Lock for Life*
- ✓ All-In Pricing*
- ✓ FREE Installation*
- ✓ FREE Whole-Home WiFi*

CALL 1-844-414-8685
VISIT SurfInternet.com

*Restrictions apply. Go to SurfInternet.com for details. ©2024 Surf Internet

Gardner Fire Protection District's Annual Chili Supper & Turkey Raffle

November 22, 2024

Raffle Baskets
\$1.00 Drafts
Portable Generator Raffle
50/50 Raffle
Adults \$10.00
Seniors & Kids under 12 \$6.00

Turkey Raffle
100 Frozen Turkeys & Chickens
Raffle starts at 6:00 pm

Gardner American Legion
426 Industry Dr.
Gardner, IL 60424
Doors open at 4:00 pm

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$17; 2 wks. - \$21;
3 wks. - \$25; 4 wks. - \$29*
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card

The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courier — The Free Press Advocate

AUTOS

1988 Chevrolet C4 Corvette Convertible. 12,240 original miles. Brand new tires. Excellent condition. Like new. Carfax Report. \$14,500 obo. Call or text 815-955-2983. No low offers. cc44-46

DUPLEXES FOR RENT

3-Bedroom Duplex, Diamond, IL. Ranch style, attached garage, concrete drive, washer/dryer hook-up. Year lease, credit check, no pets, no smoking \$1,250 per month, security deposit, plus utilities. Call 815-351-2494. ca43-46

Duplex for rent in Diamond on 1 acre lot. 2 bdr, 2 bath, 1 office. Hardwood floors, laundry room. Lg deck, outdoor shed. \$1,700 mo. No pets, No smoking. 630-854-7300 cc45-46

HOMES FOR SALE

For sale by owner in Wilmington. Ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 full baths, living room, family room, open concept kitchen & dining room with center island and quartz countertops. Back patio and beautiful deck with a gorgeous view of the Kankakee River. Call 815-405-8038. ca45-46

WE ♥ OUR READERS

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial buildings for rent or sale in Essex. 815-405-5020. ch43-50

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave.
Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 324 SUMAC STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (Single Family). On the 5th day of December, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A, THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-3** Plaintiff V. **JOSEPH SACK, LAKWOOD SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;** Defendant. Case No. **23 FC 1211** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if

REAL ESTATE

there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC** 10700 **ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170 DULUTH, GA 30097 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303.

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit - Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

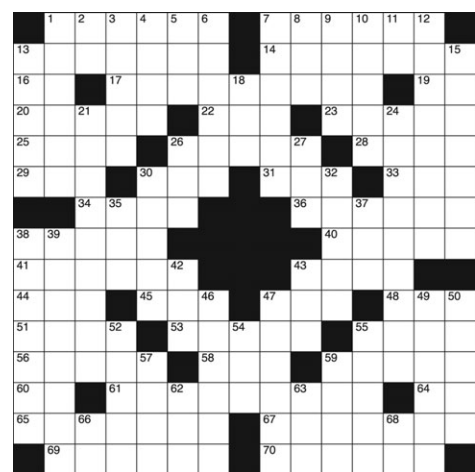
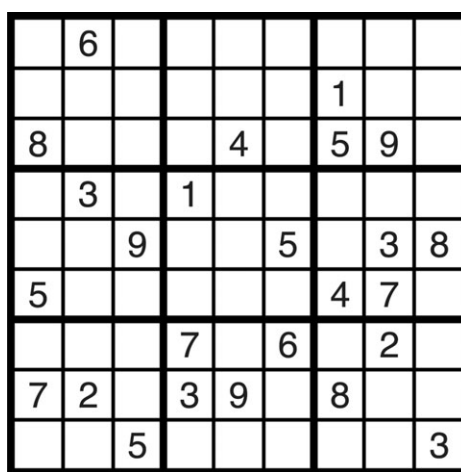
Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2023 By Grundy County Offices.

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM

(815) 942-9190

C21
CENTURY 21
Coleman-Hornby

99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

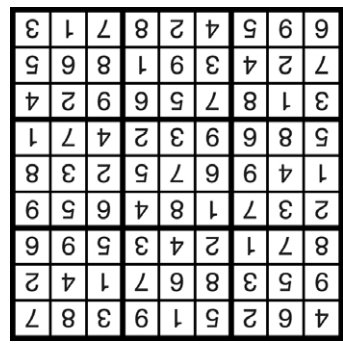


CLUES ACROSS

1. Schoolhouse tool
7. Martens
13. Slags
14. One who scrapes
16. Centiliter
17. White wine
19. Of I
20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
22. Relating to the ear
23. Sandwich shops
25. Victories
26. White (French)
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Genus of parrots
30. Unhappy
31. Talk incessantly
33. Type of Squad
34. Unit of perceived loudness
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Agave
40. Sound units
41. Removes from record
43. Partner to Mama
44. Mythological bird
45. Dash
47. Hair product
48. Two-year-old sheep
51. Signs a deal
53. Conifer
55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia
56. Wife of Muhammad
58. British Air Aces
59. Ears or ear-like appendages
60. Not caps
61. Deep-bodied sea dweller
64. Rural delivery
65. Feeling
67. Study of relations of organisms to one another
69. Room to argue
70. Question

CLUES DOWN

1. Cream puff
2. Road open
3. Stressed syllable
4. Thailand's former name
5. Cologne
6. Recounted
7. Garment of cloth
8. Airborne (abbr.)
9. Reproduced
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. "Westworld" actor Harris
12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Unstressed central vowel
15. Lives in
18. When you expect to get somewhere
21. Storage bags
24. One who covers with plastic
26. Cast out
27. Automobile
30. Repaired shoe
32. Belonging to the bottom layer
35. Possesses
37. Soda
38. Programs
39. In an unexpected way
42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
43. For each
46. Unbelief
47. Seized or impaled
49. Arrive on the scene
50. Especially happy
52. Classic western film
54. Split pulses
55. Frida ____ Painter
57. Start again
59. Employee stock ownership plan
62. Young women's association
63. Frozen water
66. "The First State"
68. Computers need one



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HENDRON CABINETS.COM
Jason Hendron Construction, LLC.
CABINETRY, GRANITE & QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS DESIGN & SALES

JSI CABINETRY **QUARTZ** **SKYLINE CABINETRY**

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: 450 DAVY LANE - WILMINGTON
Monday - Friday 9-5 & Saturday 9-12

(815) 790-1235

FARMERS INSURANCE
MELODIE J. LUCKETT

326 E. Baltimore St.
Wilmington, IL 60481
Office 815-476-5242
Cell 815-671-1356
mluckett@farmersagent.com

Agent, Notary

Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

SISTEK RENTALS
We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT**
Outdoor Power Equipment

CubCadet **GRASS HOPPER**
YOUR NEXT MOWER®

815-237-8298
740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

SHORKEY PAINTING
Est. 1989
(815) 546-1321
Interior/Exterior

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
Ed Bonnavier
Coal City • 634-4691

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS
from the Free Press Newspapers
Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

LIFTED
SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
CONCRETE RAISING

Spray Foam Insulation
• garages
• pole buildings
• attics
• basements
• commercial
• industrial
Wilmington • 815-200-6880

Concrete Raising
• driveways
• sidewalks
• patios
• stairs
• and more!

SHOP LOCAL!
WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EST. 1958

**616 Davy Lane
Wilmington**

Landscape Supply
Elwood, IL

• Driveway stone
• Pulverized topsoil
• Pool & play sand
• Hardwood mulch
• Decorative stone
• Bobcat Service

We Deliver!
www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

FULL COLOR
- Banners -
- Yard Signs -
- Post Cards -
- Brochures -

Customized to your liking.
Competitive prices.

THE FREE PRESS
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
515 Davy Lane,
Wilmington

**Affordable
Clean, Secure
Monthly Rentals**

**No Deposit Required
815-530-0200**

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP.
Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services

FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

- Shingle/Flat Roofs
- Gutters
- Siding
- Fascia/Soffit
- Insurance Claims

Licensed Insured Bonded

IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
www.vrcc.us

Will Co. Sheriff's office warns of arrest scam

If someone calls wanting money to avoid being arrested for missing jury duty, hang up the phone because it's the latest scam to hit Will County.

The Will County Sheriff's Office reports that residents have been receiving calls from a 'No Caller ID' and/or number 815-740-5552 that have been identified as a scam.

When answering these calls a man identifies himself as a deputy or sergeant from the Will County Sheriff's Office. The fraudulent police officer informs the victim that they have a warrant out for their arrest due to failing to appear in court for jury duty.

In order to clear the contempt of court warrant, the victim is told that they must pay \$4,000.

One victim reported that she asked the scammer to provide verification that the call was legitimate. The scammer told her to hang up (from the No Caller ID call) and

called back from the 815-740-5552 phone number, which indicated the Will County Sheriff's Office Warrant Division.

The victim, still being suspicious, did a Google search of the number, which verified the number belonged to the Will County Sheriff's Office Warrant Division. The victim then agreed to pay the money but informed the scammer that she only had \$2,500.

The fraudulent police officer agreed to the sum and instructed her to go to a Jewel Bitcoin Kiosk and the victim transferred the \$2,500 to the scammer.

What is notable about this scam, and others like it, is that the scammers are using names of deputies and sergeants that currently work at the Sheriff's Office and the caller ID number of the Sheriff's Warrant Division, 815-740-5552, is in fact the actual number for the Sheriff's Warrant Division.

"As we continue to warn and educate residents about these scams, and residents believe they are taking extra precautions not to fall prey, sadly, the scammers continue to fool us," the sheriff's office said in a press release.

The easiest and #1 thing to remember is do not send money to anyone unless you have initiated the contact or are speaking with a recognizable company or organization that you have had prior business with.

Caution should also be taken if you receive a call or email from your bank, special offer deals, computer virus alerts, and claims that a friend or relative is in need of money. Be Assured! The Will County Sheriff's Office, nor any other police agency or government agency, will call you for payments of any kind, and certainly not for warrants for your arrest.

Elwood Community Unit School District No. 203 files annual financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually. Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Elwood CCSD 203 School District/Joint Agreement Name | 409 N Chicago St Elwood, IL 60421 9367 Address | 815-423-5588 Telephone | 8-3 Office Hours | | | | | | | |
| Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net . | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Educational | Operations & Maintenance | Debt Services | Transportation | Municipal Retirement/Social Security | Capital Projects | Working Cash | Tort | Fire Prevention & Safety |
| Local Sources | 1000 | 5,011,349 | 2,422,138 | 0 | 871,097 | 238,702 | 0 | 150,886 | 770,106 | 0 |
| Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District | 2000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| State Sources | 3000 | 4,739 | 319,172 | 0 | 178,955 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Sources | 4000 | 1,113,855 | 34,817 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Direct Receipts/Revenues | | 6,129,943 | 2,776,127 | 0 | 1,050,052 | 238,702 | 0 | 150,886 | 770,106 | 0 |
| Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures | | 4,909,695 | 939,446 | 0 | 707,714 | 118,759 | 0 | 244,357 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Sources/Uses of Funds | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023 | | 3,320,126 | 2,065,419 | 0 | 1,198,306 | 290,611 | 0 | 171,400 | 662,867 | 0 |
| Other Changes in Fund Balances | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024 | | 4,540,374 | 3,902,100 | 0 | 1,540,644 | 410,554 | 0 | 322,286 | 1,188,616 | 0 |
| Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024 | | 4,575,848 | 3,902,100 | 0 | 1,540,644 | 410,554 | 0 | 322,286 | 1,188,616 | 0 |

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less than \$25,000

R. Allen, D. Anderson, A. Groenewold, A. Larsen, M. Mangun, M. Page, B. Peterson, K. Smith

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

L. Maver, M. Telfer

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999

M. Mangun, E. Kuyper, W. LeBeau, C. Lynch, M. Pawluk

Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999

J. Bauer, L. Bodem, C. Dooley, J. Dooley, A. Flaws, C. Forsythe, T. Huginin, T. Kovalik, M. Kraus, C. Majack, S. Maver, K. Rea, C. Rinke, S. Ruzich, K. Trafton, T. Walsh, L. Willis, A. Woolridge

Salary Range: \$90,000 and over

S. DeMaso, K. Ditzler, K. Fields, T. Page, R. Rekruciak, T. Rompala

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

K. Achter, J. Amick, M. Blotnik, C. Bosonetta, R. Braley, D. Butt, K. Conroy, M. Cunningham, R. DeSilva, K. Donchez, T. Fanning, M. Frey, K. Himer, K. Kalisik, K. Kuk, L. Lindsey, S. Mader, D. Pich, K. Richardson, R. Silverman, J. Stasiak, V. Toscano-Anaya, A. Viol, M. Walsh, U. Weiss, N. Wilson, K. Zabel, D. Zumpf

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

V. Hall, K. Carreno, J. Viol, L. Kavanaugh, H. Majack, N. Simmons

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999

M. Burgess, T. Maas, J. Viol

Salary Range: \$60,000 and over

E. Moon, N. Włodarczyk, R. Williams

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES (continued)

| Person, Firm, or Corporation | Aggregate Amount |
|--|------------------|
| NuWay Disposal Service Inc | \$6,430 |
| BSN Sports, Inc. | \$6,756 |
| Clean Gardens Maint & Landscaping | \$6,900 |
| Sweetwater Sound LLC | \$6,923 |
| Bushue Background Screening/Bushue Human Resources | \$6,964 |
| Johnson Controls | \$7,233 |
| EMS Linq | \$7,471 |
| NWEA | \$8,040 |
| Gassensmith & Michalesko | \$9,131 |
| Gordon Flesch Company, Inc. (Usage) | \$9,339 |
| Common Goal Systems, Inc. | \$9,463 |
| GFC Leasing - WI | \$10,031 |
| Grainger | \$10,827 |
| Knight Security Alarms, Inc. | \$11,850 |
| Velocita Technology | \$12,270 |
| Houghton Mifflin | \$13,000 |
| Menards | \$13,760 |
| AWS Consulting LLC | \$14,000 |
| Nicor Gas | \$14,709 |
| Rivals Technologies Corp | \$14,738 |
| IXL Learning | \$15,995 |
| CINTAS Fire Protection | \$16,403 |
| Elan Financial Services | \$17,110 |
| SHI International Corp. | \$17,602 |
| Elwood Council AFT 6042 | \$18,978 |
| Employers Preferred Ins. Co. | \$21,608 |
| Dahme Mechanical Industries | \$22,573 |
| ECA Educational Services | \$24,142 |
| EMC Insurance Companies | \$25,457 |
| TRIA Architecture, Inc. | \$25,795 |
| Amazon Capital Services | \$27,256 |
| Wiss Janney Elstner Assoc. Inc. | \$36,229 |
| BMO | \$36,525 |
| Teachers Health Insurance | \$38,096 |
| Tri-K Supplies, Inc. | \$40,145 |
| Haddock Corporation Technologies | \$51,660 |
| School Outfitters | \$56,630 |
| The Stepping Stones Group | \$57,530 |
| IL Municipal Ret. Fund | \$59,124 |
| Klein Thorne and Jenkins Ltd | \$64,158 |
| Village Of Elwood | \$79,568 |
| Mid Atlantic Trust Company | \$82,220 |
| Joliet Public Schools | \$93,010 |
| Stalker Sports Floors | \$94,103 |
| MidAmerican Energy Services | \$98,436 |
| Arbor Management Inc./GenNx Whitsons Acquisitions | \$116,667 |
| IL Dept. Of Revenue | \$132,427 |
| Red Feather Group | \$165,795 |
| Teacher Retirement System | \$244,254 |
| EFTPS | \$404,340 |
| Lincolnway Area Affil | \$522,460 |
| First Student Inc. | \$695,944 |
| SOWIC | \$813,790 |

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., Nov. 13, 2024.

Attorney Meents files Awad estate claim

Attorney Meents files Knight estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF MAHMOUD A. AWAD,, Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 618

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Mahmoud A. Awad, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 22, 2024, to Genia M. Awad, whose address is 22715 Maddeline Lane, Frankfort, Illinois 60423; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 30, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/geth> elp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Genia M. Awad
Independent Administrator
of the Estate of Mahmoud A. Awad,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents

Meents Law, P.C.

25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A

Channahon, Illinois 60410

Telephone: (815) 534-9515

Facsimile: (815) 534-9516

Attorney Code: 06298859

E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 30,
Nov. 6 and 13, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ALLYN DEANE KNIGHT,
Deceased; No. 2024 PR 619

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Allyn Deane Knight, Letters of Office as Independent Co-Executors were issued on October 22, 2024, to Brian Thomas Knight, whose address is 40 Georgetown Drive, Cary, Illinois 60013 and Lindsay Deanne Little, whose address is 155 West Des Plaines Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 30, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/geth> elp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Brian Thomas Knight and
Lindsay Deanne Little
Independent Co-Executors of the
Estate of Allyn Deane Knight,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents

Meents Law, P.C.

25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A

Channahon, Illinois 60410

Telephone: (815) 534-9515

Facsimile: (815) 534-9516

Attorney Code: 06298859

E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 30,
Nov. 6 and 13, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 324 Sumac St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.

COUNTY OF WILL)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A, THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-3, Plaintiff,
vs.

JOSEPH SACZEK: LAKEWOOD SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
No. 23 FC 1211

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 22nd day of August, 2024, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 5th day of December, 2024, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOT 403, IN SEVENTH ADDITION TO LAKEWOOD SHORES, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, IN TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, AND IN RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 17, 1961, AS DOCUMENT NO. 929059, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Commonly known as: 324 SUMAC STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Single Family
P.I.N.: 08-24-01-303-038-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170
DULUTH, GA 30097
P: 708-668-4410 X 52109
Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., Nov. 13, 20 and 27, 2024.

Village of Elwood's annual treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE

Village of Elwood Annual Treasurer's Report April 30, 2024

| | General | *Deer Run TIF | Capital Construction Bond | Non-Major Governmental Funds |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5/1/2023 | \$5,964,902.00 | \$(176,885,090.00) | \$13,017,957.00 | \$2,022,602.00 |
| Revenues | 7,081,392.00 | 11,170,784.00 | 3,343,812.00 | 170,427.00 |
| Expenses | (4,247,965.00) | (16,676,951.00) | (460,522.00) | (16,037.00) |
| Transfer In/(Out) | (1,148,311.00) | 182,391,257.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4/30/2024 | 7,650,018.00 | 0.00 | 15,901,247.00 | 2,176,992.00 |

*On June 12, 2023, the Deer Run TIF District expired, and the debt was extinguished.

Revenue Summary Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2024

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Taxes | \$14,740,797.00 |
| Intergovernmental | \$1,731,412.00 |
| Charges for Services | \$1,022,530.00 |
| Licenses & Permits | \$3,036,495.00 |
| Fines & Forfeits | \$91,820.00 |
| Interest Income | \$1,142,139.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$1,222.00 |
| Total | \$21,766,415.00 |

Compensation for Personnel Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2024

Gross Earnings Under \$25,000

Bertucci, Jodie
Ciuffini, Kimberly
Deklerk, Anthony
Elberson, Kendra
Hrpcha, Jason
Jenco, Douglas
Lab, Darryl
Lande, Brad
Maas, Tricia
Marquez, Arlenen
McElroy, Thomas
Meister, Mason
Meyers, Sheila
Olsen, Clinton
Pohlman, James
Reid, Michael
Schmidt, Ronald
Starkey, Scott
Varman, Michael
Walsh, Joseph

Gross Earnings Under \$25,001 - \$50,000

Bechtold, Natalie
Brausche, Jacob
Kerrigan, Rhea
Rodgers, Marie
Turner, Susanna

Gross Earnings Under \$50,001-\$75,000

Alsip, Timothy
Bajrami, Drin
Crane, Tyler
Doden, Brandon
Drabik, Anthony
Murphy, Mathew
Paris, Timothy
Wellen, Robert
Zimmerman, Sarah

Gross Earnings Under \$75,001 - \$100,000

Adams, Nick
Day, Roberta
Jaburek, Kenneth
Swabowski, Sean

Gross Earnings Over \$100,000

Friebele, Julie
Hayes, Fred
Lohmar, Anthony
Lohmar, Larry
Reid, Charles
Wright, Edward

Vendor Payments over \$2,500 Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2024

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Accushape | \$6,056.00 | Constellation New Energy | \$26,370.15 |
| Adlara Technologies | \$8,023.04 | Copperfield Communications | \$18,315.25 |
| Adler Roofing & Sheet Metal | \$42,464.00 | Countryside Barns | \$6,813.45 |
| AFAC | \$5,158.80 | County of Will | \$3,026.76 |
| Alexander Equipment Co Inc | \$2,441.55 | Crescent Electric | \$12,284.75 |
| Alliant Fire Protection | \$2,570.00 | Customer Refunds | \$6,863.78 |
| Alliant Insurance Services Inc | \$11,902.00 | D'Arcy Buick GMC | \$44,162.21 |
| Allied Nursery | \$8,060.00 | Dominic Vella | \$2,500.00 |
| ALM Lnwcare | \$3,748.75 | Dynegy Energy Services | \$181,188.01 |
| Altorph Industries Inc | \$41,555.93 | Elliott Electric | \$4,548.10 |
| Amalgamated Bank | \$1,148,314.44 | Elwood Fire Protection | \$6,860.80 |
| American Sealcoating Inc | \$20,600.00 | Elwood School | \$9,468.56 |
| Austin Tydur Construction Inc | \$71,267.24 | Energy Panel Structures | \$113,982.29 |
| Azavar Audit Solutions | \$42,997.40 | Evoqua Water Technologies | \$3,280.23</ |

COALER SPORTS



Photo by Amy Walker

QUARTERBACK ZANDER MEENTS rushes for yards during Saturday's game against Boylan. Meents rushed for a total of 16 yards and passed for 141 yards.



Photo by Amy Walker

DIVING FORWARD after making one of his three catches on Saturday is Coal City Gabe McHugh. Coal City advances to the quarterfinal round on Saturday at 1 p.m. when they will host Dixon.

Coalers power past Boylan

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENTS

Like much of the Illinois Central Eight conference in his three years, the Rockford Boylan Titans had no answers for Landin Benson, especially in the second half.

The senior scored four of his five touchdowns and seemingly touched the ball on every offensive snap, putting the team on his back.

Boylan knew what was coming and they just couldn't stop Benson and the Coalers' offensive line.

Coal City outscored the Titans 26-0 in the second half en route to a 33-10 victory, advancing to their first quarterfinals in five years.

"We realized its win or go home and no next game is guaranteed and wore them down," said the senior who rushed the ball 38 times for 168 yards and recorded his second straight five touchdown game.

"Amazing effort by the line to keep pushing through the other team without getting tired helping our run game work."

The Coalers will host third-seeded Dixon Saturday at 1, whose only loss during the season came against perennial

playoff power Byron 29-28.

Saturday's game couldn't have started better for the visitors as an errant snap went well over the Boylan punter's head, setting up a first and goal at the Titan four yard line.

Benson cashed in on the ensuing play for the early 7-0 lead.

The Titans put together a strong second drive, which took nearly seven minutes, but they failed to convert on a 30 yard field goal.

Coal City then moved the ball into the redzone only to have Zander Meents' pass intercepted in the endzone on the first play of the second.

Boylan took advantage immediately with a 43 yard run, but the drive stalled and resulted in a successful 30 yard field goal.

They added a 35 yard punt return, which set up their lone touchdown, a 10 yard pass with 55 seconds left in the opening half. The Titans bottled up Benson in the first half, holding him to just 24 yards on 12 carries.

"The message at half was basically to go out there, execute and try to wear those guys down," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"And with the initial drive in the third

quarter, we really sent a message and our guys kept making plays."

The second half was a different story as the Coalers possessed the ball

for about 20 of the 24 minutes and scored touchdowns on all four possessions.

"The defense really stepped up in the second half in all aspects. We knew we were down so it motivated us to go out there and get it done to advance," said sophomore lineman Emmett Easton who led the way with 10 tackles.

Benson bookended the third with touchdown runs of 15 and eight yards and recorded an 11 and two yard touchdown run in the final four minutes.

While Benson gets most of the headlines for his eye-popping numbers, they wouldn't be possible without a strong offensive line.

"The line came out and played great in the second half. They were able to make holes and all five of our linemen and our tight ends really set the tone," said Loughran.

"We were able to get four, five yards and methodically go down the field and that wears on a team."

It was another efficient day for Meents who completed 11-of-13 passes for 141

yards. He also ran the ball three times for 16 yards.

He connected with five different receivers led by Gabe McHugh (46 yards) and Benson (38 yards), who both caught three balls.

Dylan Young had a big fourth and 14 conversion, gaining 20 yards to essentially put the game away, part of a 22 yard day.

"That was one of the best plays from Saturday. Meents was able to scramble and get the ball to Young. That shows that we have more than

Benson to account for."

Logan Natyshok added 23 yards on two catches and three rushes for 11 yards and Brody Widlowski recorded a 12 yard reception.

Defensively, John Keigher was right behind Easton with nine tackles. Gabe McHugh and Jake Cerutti both made five stops and Brock Finch, Widlowski and Mason Garner all added four.

Cade Poyner tallied three and Donnie Ladas, Gavin Berger and Alec Waliczek all recorded two.

Also in on a stop were Noah Houston, Rey Gonzalez and Gavin V. stal.

"Coming out in the second half, forcing a three-and-out and getting the ball back to our offense was huge."

Coalers set to 'duke' it out with Dixon

JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENTS

One team has averaged 48.2 points per game while allowing just 10.1. The other has averaged 42.2 while giving up just 9.1.

Sounds like quite the recipe for a quarterfinal clash.

The 10-1 Dixon Dukes will head to Coal City for Saturday's Class 4A battle against the 9-2 Coalers at 1 p.m.

Dixon plays in the very tough Big Northern conference where six of the 10 teams made the playoffs.

The Dukes had little trouble with Chicago Ag in the second round, scoring at least 50 points for the sixth time in 11 games (51-6).

The game will likely come down to which defense can stop the other's offense.

"Our motto is to be fast and physical, so we just have to go out there and execute," said Coal City lineman Emmett Easton.

"Nothing like playing in front of all of the Coalers fans that come out. We have only let up 13 points at home and don't plan on let-

ting up anymore."

Coaler coach Francis Loughran knows that at this time of year every play is magnified.

"In talking with the guys Monday, everything's kind of heightened at this point. We have to execute each play."

"Defensively, we have to show that we can stop the run. They're very good at both the run and the pass so we'll have our work cut out for us this week."

Playing at home is a huge plus for the Coalers who gave up their first points of the season (13) on the new turf in the opening round against Johnsbury.

"These guys love playing at home. We've had great crowds and support from the community like always."

The winner of this game will face either 12th seeded Burbank (St Laurence) or ninth seeded Chicago (DePaul) in the semifinals.

"We're definitely excited after a win like that but not content with where we are and want to keep our season alive as long as possible. The team is feeling good and wants to stay hot," said all-time leading rusher Landin Benson who has accounted for 10 touchdowns the last two weeks.

Containing Benson figures to be job one for the Dukes, but quarterback Zander Meents is a very capable passer and has a variety of weapons in Gabe McHugh, Gavin Berger, Logan Natyshok, Dylan Young, Benson, etc.

"Benson is always reliable. He will get his carries, but Meents does a great job getting the ball out to different guys," said Loughran.



Photo by Amy Walker

FIRE UP after making a tackle for a loss is Coal City's Alec Waliczek (51) and Emmett Easton (12).



Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner



Danielle Marma
Winner of a large 2-item
Pizza, carry-out only

Must redeem by Nov. 18, 2024

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"



FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"



39TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$30⁹⁹

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 11/30/24.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
715 S. Broadway • Coal City



All conference soccer players



COAL CITY SOCCER players who were named All Conference include (from left) Aidan Kenney, Dane Noffsinger, Sam Sterba, Parker Jacovec and Carter Nicholson.

Photo courtesy Alyshia Nicholson

Senior tennis players honored



CCHS SENIOR Kate Promis is escorted by her parents Sumner and Kevin Promis on Senior Night. She is a two year member of the Lady Coaler Tennis team. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is a member and president of the Spanish Honor Society. She plans to continue her education after high school.



CCHS SENIOR Fianna Gregory is escorted on Senior Night by her parents Tyrone and Jaimie Gregory. She is a four year member of the Lady Coaler Tennis team. She also participates in soccer at Coal City High School. Her future plans are to begin a career as a hairstylist.

Win streak ends for CCMS 8th grade girls

The 8th grade Lady Coalers' three-game winning streak came to an end recently as they took one on the chin against the very high-powered offense of the Troy Trojans.

The Coalers fought hard to the end but fell 46-30. Angelise Stevens led the Coalers' scoring attack with 8 points, while Olivia Ferrari and Darcie Ladas each contributed 6 points. Tori Harrington, Kinsley Nowak, Avery Male, Allyson Togliatti, and Kendal Shute were all good for 2 points apiece.

"Four of our five losses this season have been blow-outs, but Troy is by far the best team we'll probably see all year," said coach Andy Leve.

"They had control of the game right from the start, and it only ended as a 16-point game because their coach backed off and let us play. Troy fires on all cylinders, and their players play really well together."

The Lady Coalers picked up their 10th win of the season on Oct. 29 with a 31-8 pounding of the Sandwich Braves.

Olivia Ferrari had the hot hand for the Coalers with 8 points. Emma Sinkular and Darcie Ladas dropped in 6 points apiece, and

Ladas grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds.

Hope Wermer and Avery Male tossed in 2 buckets each, while Giavella Carver and Kenslee Baldauf rounded out the scoring with 2 points and 1 point respectively. Wermer also snatched 6 boards for the Coalers.

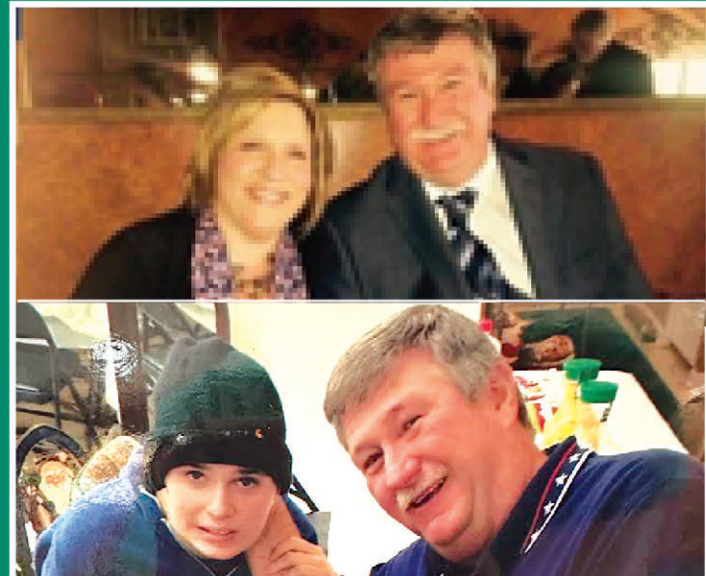
"This was a fun game tonight. We've been leaning on our starters pretty heavily the last few games, so it was nice to have a game like this where everyone could get lots of playing time and contribute something positive to the win. We had insanely high numbers of shot attempts (68) and rebounds (42) tonight; I don't think I've seen stats that high at this level in my entire career. We just dominated Sandwich in every area of the game."

"One of the highlights tonight though, was seeing Giavella Carver get her first basket of the season."

She's never played before, and one of my personal goals is to see everyone score at least once in the season. Tonight was her night, and I know the rest of the kids on the team loved it just as much as I did because the bench went crazy when she scored," said coach Leve.

BUM'S AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP TACKLE SOME OF THE EXPENSES FOR THE TABLER FAMILY

Due to the tremendous response from our community, Bum's Tavern and Other Local Businesses are working together to help support the Tabler Family. Bum's Tavern will sponsor the Monday Night Football Fundraiser where 25% of all dine-in food and non alcoholic beverage sales will be donated to the Tabler Family - a local family who lost everything in a tragic house fire, including two family members.



WEEK 1

Monday, Nov. 18
Matching Sponsors

Jerry Hallahan - State Farm
Lori Bonarek Realty

WEEK 2

Monday, Nov. 25
Matching Sponsors

BDR Properties
On The Rocks

WEEK 3

Monday, Dec. 2
Matching Sponsors

Weber Micetich Chiropractic
Salon Suites

WEEK 4

Monday, Dec. 9
Matching Sponsors

Bank of Pontiac
City Lights

WEEK 5

Monday, Dec. 16
Matching Sponsors

Cardinal Transport
West Flooring

Support these local businesses that support our community!

FIELD GOAL DONATION

25% of all dine-in food and non alcoholic beverage sales will be donated to the Tabler Family by Bum's Tavern. Plus, two local businesses will match the donation each week!

TOUCHDOWN DONATION

Pick a football to help get the family needed items.

QUARTERBACK DONATION

Donate for a chance to win a liquor basket*

*Liquor basket winner must be 21 or older.

follow us on facebook

Bum's Tavern
790 N. Sixth St., Carbon Hill
(815) 634-0148

State Farm
Jerry Hallahan, Agent

Bank of Pontiac

West Flooring Company
Quality Products & Professional Installation

Weber Micetich
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
DR. JULI WEBER
(815) 634-0445
24 E. NORTH ST., COAL CITY, IL

BDR Properties

CITY
Lighting Electric
Coal City, IL
815-258-0785

CARDINAL
TRANSPORT, INC.

TRANSPORT

DG
Diamond Grout
Salon Suites

ON THE ROCKS
SPIRITS & GAMING

LORI BONAREK
REALTY